Family Reunions

Book of

Betty L. Fitch



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FITCH REUNION BOOK

My Reunion poem
Old Reunion list 1911-1943
Letter from Pearl Diehl 1915 to Mathias probably

1971 Reunion, minutes and photos
1971 " photos
1972 ' photos
1973 ' photos
1974 ' photos
1975 ' photos
1976 ' minutes and correspondence
1902 ' minutes
1977 ' photos, correspondence
1978 ' minutes
1979 ' minutes, correspondence
1980 ' minutes
1981 ' minutes
1982 ' Newsletter
1983 ' Newsletter, minutes
1984 " Newsletter, minutes
1985 ' Newsletter
1986 Letter from Washington, Schuyler's family
1992 Reunion, photos, at Sharon Jokay's, Newsletter
1996 Photos from Bill Cassell's home from our trip East
1993 Newsletter, old photos
1994 Newsletter, Ft. Wayne Park information, correspondence
1994 Reunion Map
1995 Newsletter
Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, photo collection
List of Mathias's decendants dated 11-1993
1995 August Newsletter
1996 Newsletter
1997 Newsletter
Old list of family addresses, about 1970's

THE FAMILY REUNION

A family reunion?
We meet each year, what a great day..
Most return, but some do not.
Each year more slip away.

There'll be another family reunion
I'm going to be there
And want to go through the family role
To find each of the Fitch's there.

When the Lord calls us together
we all want to be there,
Each mother, father and each child.
We don't want an empty chair.

What about you? Do you know for sure
That you'll be there?
Make sure today. Do you know Him?
His reunion feast He wants to share.

Three years ago if He had called
reunion time right then,
I could not have gone, or passed His test
of sinlessness and righteousness.

But praise His Name, His Holy Name,
He met me where I was,
And offered me salvation
As He ~~often~~ ALWAYS does.

And not knowing but that it might be
my last chance ... I took it.

His gift is free, but as with gifts
We do have to receive.
And to receive the Son of God
We merely trust and believe.

I had sinned by not believing
And that's the sin I had
To keep me out of His reunion
Not that I was so bad.

But Jesus paid for all that sin
Two thousand years ago,
So when I asked, He freed me.
My record's white as snow.

He set me free to know Him
And to love Him I was free
And He always did love me,
My eyes were just too blind to see.

What about you? Do you know for sure
That you'll be there?
Make sure today... Do you know Him
Whose heart He wants to share?

You can know Him you know
He's not that God far away somewhere.
Every part of your life
is in His loving care.

There is no doubt when you are in His hands,
You'll know, yes, you will know
And when family reunion time has come
You'll know, you know you'll go.

What about you? Do you know for sure
that you'll be there?
Make sure today. Do you know Him
Whose Heaven He wants to share?

He's waiting today.....

Betty Fitch 1978

FITCH REUNIONS

	Home of	
July 4, 1911	J. D. Gloyd	Printing and ice cream
July 4, 1912	Amos Fitch	Printing, postage
July 4, 1913	Old Homestead	none
July 4, 1914		K. Beers, printing
July 5. 1915	Ida Mason	printing, post cards, benefit of Frank Fitch who was ill at Lake S.
July 4, 1916	J.D. Gloyd	200 post cards
July 4, 1917	Allen Hartzell	none
July 4, 1918	Amos Fitch	4.95 unstated
July 4, 1919	JOHN Fitch	5.20 "
July 4, 1920	D. N. Fitch	12.40 "
July 4, 1921	Ida Mason	13.05 "
July 4, 1922	Harvey Fitch	7.32 "
July 4, 1923	Otis Gloyd	12.25 "
July 4, 1924	D. N. Fitch	6.00 "
July 4, 1925	Harvey Fitch	Ice cream and cones 13.50
July 4, 1926	Amos Fitch	binders for history
July 4, 1927	Otis Gloyd	Ice cream and cones
July 4, 1928	Parker Fitch	ice cream and postage
July 4, 1929	Otis Gloyd	Ice cream and printing
July 5, 1930	Mr and MRs. Kell	Ice cream and printing
July 4, 1931	Fred Fitch	Ice cream, cones, notices
July 4, 1932	Amos Fitch	Ice cream, cones, postage, notices and stationery
July 4, 1933	Harvey Fitch	Ice cream, postage and cemetary care
July 4, 1934	Huntertown Church	Ice cream, notices, postage, Use of church
July 4, 1935	"	Cemetary, ice cream, notices
July 4, 1936	"	
July 5, 1937	"	
July 4, 1938	"	
July 4, 1939	"	
July 4, 1940	"	
July 4, 1941	"	
July 4, 1942	"	
July 4, 1943	"	

A letter from Mrs. Fred Diehl, 119 Bloom St., Danville, PA. This letter was dated June 17, 1915..

Probably written to either John Fitch or Mathias as they were usually the head of the reunion plans at that time.

Dear Mr. Fitch,

I am reminded of the fact that I owe you some history of the family, and I know you will want it for your reunion on July 4th. I have a great deal of history, but most of it has not been worked up enough so that it is interesting. I have been requested by our reunion members, to work up the present genealogy in full, taking one branch each year. As soon as I have that completed, I shall send you a copy. I have copied the parts of the history that I think will prove interesting and I hope to have more for you in the future.

Speaking for the Fitches in the East, I wish you a joyous reunion on the 4th. I think ours will be held the 2nd Wednesday in August at Lake Winola, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Fred Diehl
nee Pearl Fitch

It was probably to Mathias as he didn't die until 1923. Wonder just what she sent???? At the present time, 1997, the notebooks and history of Pearl Fitch Diehl is in the hands of Vera Fitch Davis of Tunhannock, PA. Saw it when we visited there in 1996. Most of it is about the local PA families with photos etc.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND REUNION OF NATHANIEL AND SARAH FITCH FAMILY

At the second annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch in DeKalb County, Indiana July 4, 1903.

Mathias Fitch was elected president of this organization and at that reunion by request and mutual consent of a number of the family, Mrs. Emma F. Hartzell was made secretary. And I now beg to submit the following report of the organization of the two previous meetings held July 4, 1902 and July 4, 1903.

A brief explanation of the beginning of the reunion is thought to be of interest to its members. And also lay a foundation for the record of the reunion previous to July 4, 1904. Upon the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd to the members of the family to meet at and enjoy the hospitalities of their home July 4, 1902. The members of the family responded to their invitation.

Mother Fitch, Mrs. Perry Fitch and children, Kelsey, George, Frank, Claude and Pearl and two Grandsons Victor and Fred. Mathias Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Fitch and children Roen, Robert and Murlin. Mr. and Mrs. John Fitch and children Grace and Maurice. Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch and children Rolland, Marie and Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and children Audrey, Nina, Parker, Cecile, Ernest. Mrs. Statton and children Leander, Harold, Helen, Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell and Edith.

It is desirable on the part of your secretary to have a complete list of the names of every living descendant of Father and Mother and I hope before this report is copied in the record for such purpose, I may be able to procure such a list.

Much credit is due Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and family for their efforts in making this day pleasant and enjoyable for all those present; and as a result of this pleasant gathering of the family it was decided to hold Annual Reunions. And upon the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch the second annual reunion of the family was held at their pleasant home July the 4th, 1903.

Those present were Mother Fitch, Mrs. Perry Fitch and children, Kelsey, George, Frank, Claude and Pearl. Mr. and Mrs. Will Fitch and children Victor and Fred. Mathias Fitch. Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Fitch and children Roen, Robert, Murlin. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and children Estella, May Della, Otis and Norma. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fitch and children Audrey, Nina, Parker, Cecile and Ernest. Mrs. Stratton and children Leander, Harold, Helen, Marguerite. Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Mason. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hartzell. We had as our guest the venerable Danford Parker of Huntertown, Indiana.

The day was an ideal one. The surrounding pleasant and the dinner grand. All of which contributed to making the day a very enjoyable one. And the success of this and the first meeting insures a continuation of the annual reunions of the family.

In presenting this report, I realize its imperfection and expect to correct and enlarge the same to a more perfect record of the two meetings together with the meeting of today and embody them in a permanent record to be kept by the reunion organization. All of which I respectfully submit for your consideration and approval and desire any suggestions to make the record more complete.

Emma F. Hartzell,
Secretary

Secretary's Minutes of 69th Reunion

On July 18th, 1971, the 69th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families was held on a beautiful warm sunny day, at the River Lodge Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dinner began around 12:30 pm with a prayer offered by Russell Pusey. The meal was delicious, what else could we expect from the Fitch clan!

Around 1:30 pm Ivan Fitch, our president, began the business meeting. Instead of a roll call, everyone was reminded to sign the register slip. There were 57 cousins present this year. The minutes of the 68th Reunion were read and approved. After the minutes, greetings from 14 of the cousins were read and enjoyed by all. They included Mrs. Dennis Adams, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Fair, Sister M. Alma Louise, Mrs. Charles Cassell, Mrs. Margie Beers Ozanne, Mr. William D. Fitch, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Harvey, Mrs. Elizabeth Bressler Gartner, Mrs. Claudia MacInnes, Mr. & Mrs. Palmer Fair Bressler, Mrs. Helen Hawver Florsheim, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Fitch, Mr. & Mrs. Otto Silha and a lovely letter and a very generous gift of 50.00 dollars was received from Mr. Harold Stratton and his sister Mrs. Marguerite Stratton Nobles.

After the greeting, Helen Hawver gave us the treasurer's report.

Balance on Hand with Interest		$ 95.70
Expenses for the year		
Dry Ice & Ice Cream	$10.76	
Stamps, paper Printing & Envelopes	24.97	
Pavilion	12.00	
	$47.73	-47.73
		$47.97
Collected		66.00
Gift		50.00
	Total	$163.97

Carolyn Davis then gave us all the recorded births and marriages for this year. There were no reported deaths. There were 14 births and 8 marriages. Helen Bowlby then gave us a brief history and informed us we were related to the Governor William Bradford of the Mayflower.

A discussion about a container to keep the Fitch Records and pictures was brought up again. The committee had made no decisions because the containers available were either too expensive or not large enough for our purposes.

Carolyn Davis then gave us the details concerning the history book we are planning to have made. It was moved by Victor Fitch and seconded by Iolene Pusey that as many pictures, a coat of arms, and an inexpensive cover be provided with the history. The motion was carried.

It was then moved by Victor Fitch and seconded by John Fitch and carried by those present that the Roscoe Conkling coat of arms be used.

Fred Fitch then moved and John seconded to empower the Committee to decide on the price as they see fit. The motion was carried.

Victor Fitch moved and Iolene Pursey seconded that Mrs. Davis be provided money from the treasury for stamps and envelopes for the extra mailing and correspondence which will be necessary in connection with the history book. The motion was carried at which time the officers volunteered their services for another year. The meeting was then adjourned and we all enjoyed visiting and eating a lot of ice cream.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Davis Bailey, Sec.
Ivan Fitch Pres.

Dear Members of the Fitch Family,

At the Fitch reunion, which was held on July 18, 1971, a motion was made to have the committee arrange for publication of a family history. Inclosed is a copy of the secretary's minutes so that you who were not present will know what decisions were made.

The family history has been traced as far back as 1562 in England. We are concerned with the Reverend James Fitch, son of Thomas Fitch. The Reverend James Fitch, born in Essex County, England, came to the United States and settled in Connecticut in 1634. The Nathaniel Fitch who came to Indiana is a direct descendant of the Reverend James Fitch. In our history there are twenty pages covering this early geneology.

Forty five additional pages will be the records of the descendants of Nathaniel Fitch and Sarah Elizabeth Delong who were married June 4, 1840.

Included in the book will be 12 pictures, a picture of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth, a picture of the first family gathering taken in 1884 at the family homestead and since ~~NINE~~ 10 of the children of Nathaniel had families, we hope to have each of these families submit a group picture. If you do not have a group picture, we hope you could submit a picture of the parents. We are limited to twelve pictures.

The coat of arms will be the Roscoe Conkling as requested in the motion. The book will have a cover and be the ring binder type.

Our President, Ivan Fitch of Marion, Indiana has procured bids for publication of this Fitch History. The committee has agreed upon a firm in Marion.

At the reunion we received 27 orders. We are sending this information to each family on our mailing list with a blank to be filled out by Dec. 1, 1971 and returned to my address.

I will be contacting members of the family to proof read our record data before submitting it for publication. Your co-operation in this project will be greatly appreciated. Ours is a wonderful heritage, may it continue.

Name_____

Address_____

I wish to order _____ copies of the History of the Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Family.

Price not to exceed $7.50 each.

Mrs. Clarence Davis, Historian
1928 Hazelwood Ave.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

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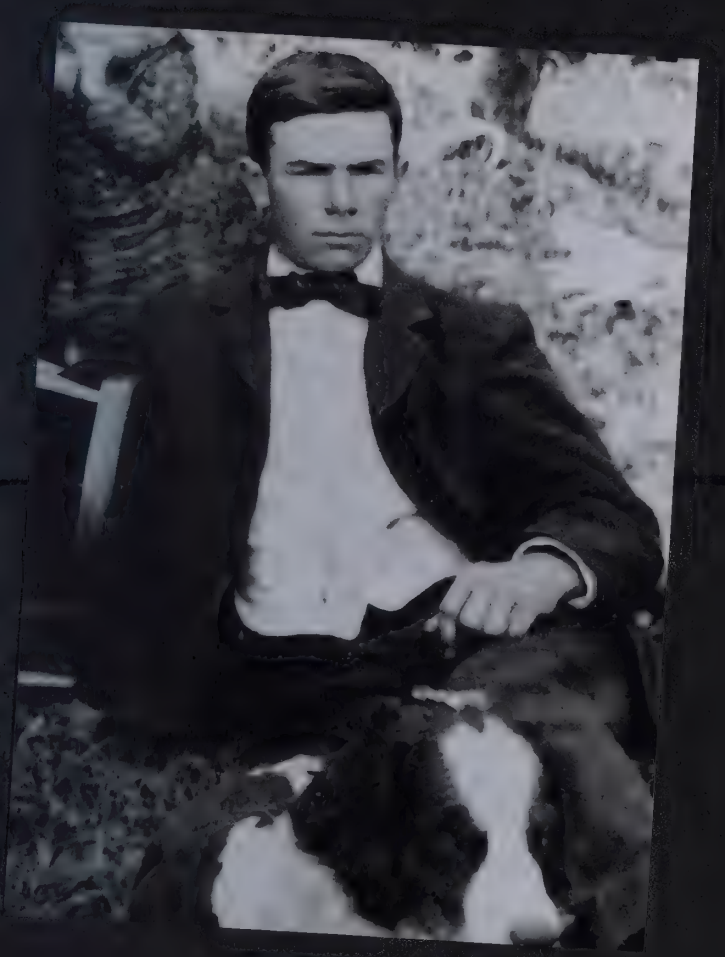






3

L-R: Sarah Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy (Mrs. Amos) Fitch & Jennie Fitch Beers, holding Bertha Beers (1884 Reunion)



David Nathanial Fitch with a canine friend. (1884 Reunion)



Center: Margarita Beers, daughter of Levi and Jennie Beers. (1884 Reunion)



L-R: Standing: Allen Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, Jerome Gloyd.
Seated: Nancy Fitch, Jennie Beers & Fitellia Fitch Gloyd.



1884 Fitch Family Reunion
at the Fitch Homestead,
Huntertown, IN.







2

Unidentified child (1884 Reunion)

Prob. one of Perry's



2



Right: Amos Fitch (possibly Margie Beers at the extreme right). (1884 Reunion)

Mathias behind Amos?





2



Right: William Fitch at the luncheon. (1884 Reunion)

Prob. Schuyler or John Fitch in Right Chair.





L-R: Ida Fitch, Levi Beers & Allen Hartzell at the luncheon (1884 Reunion)





L-R: Unidentified child & Frances (Mrs. Mathias) Fitch. (1884 Reunion)





Harvey Fitch holding Audrey Fitch (blurred). (1884 Reunion)





Irwin Stratton and Ida Fitch
in background. Mathias ← Perry?
Fitch in checkered shirt.
(1884 Reunion)





L-R: David Nathanial Fitch
& Jerome Gloyd.
Unidentified child in
foreground. (1884 Reunion)



Prob. Schuyler b. 1869 - 15



"The Luncheon" at the 1884 Reunion, held in front of the Fitch Homestead.

looks like Mathias hiding behind Amos



6

"The Luncheon" at the 1884 Reunion, held in front of the Fitch Homestead.





L-R: Sarah Stratton, Mother Sarah DeLong Fitch and Nancy H. Fitch. (1884 Reunion)





L-R: Jennie Beers, Fitelia Gloyd, Emma Beers, & Sarah Stratton. (1884 Reunion)



John Fitch
and
Rosa Belle Hollopeter
Wedding - 1898

#0112

Use Best one



Mr. & Mrs. Claude Bowlby
(Helen Stratton whose
mother was Sarah E. Fitch)



Fred Fitch
Becky Baily (Davis)
Ivan Fitch

NATHANIEL And SARAH FITCH
69 th Family Reunion
July 1971



Ivan Fitch
Becky Davis Bailey
Carolyn Davis



Mrs. Davis, Becky and
her husband and
family



Mr. Howard and
Marguerette Hart



Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Fitch
from Marion, Ind.

July 18, 1971 – Shoaff Park River Lodge



John Fitch
Karl Davis
Robbie Bailey



Claude Bowlby

Ft. Wayne, Indiana



HERE FOR REUNION—Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch Stratton, above of Parkersburg, W. Va., and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., formerly of Fort Wayne, will attend the 51st Fitch family reunion to be held Sunday at Cedarville Park, Cedarville. Mrs. Stratton, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday, is the widow of Judge Irvin Franklin Stratton. During her say Mrs. Stratton will be the guest of her granddaughter, Mrs. Carl E. Schafer of 1118 Ewing St., at their summer cottage at Lake Gage. Mrs. Stratton will be accompanied by her son, H. F. Stratton, and her daughter, Mrs. M. S. Nobles.



Betty Fitch

Helen Bowlby



Betty Fitch

July 1972

The 70th Reunion of the
NATHANIEL and SARAH Fitch Family
River Lodge, Shoaf Park, Ft. WAYNE, Ind.



The oldest member present was Marguerite Beers Ozanne at 94 years of age. She is the daughter of Jane Fitch Beers, 3rd. child of Sarah and Nathaniel. Also in the picture her daughter Lucille Cassell.



Parker Fitch and Cecil Fitch. Parker is 86 years old. He is the son of Harvey Fitch 9th child of Sarah and Nathaniel



Ivan Fitch, Helen Hawver, Carolyn Davis

Ivan is from the Perry Fitch Family - First child of Sarah and Nathaniel
Helen is from the David Fitch Family - 15th Child
Carolyn is from the Mathias Fitch Family - 2nd child



Claude and Helen Bowlby
Helen is the daughter of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton (who lived to be 103 years old) 10th Child of Sarah and Nathaniel



Jake Kell, Bryce Ozanne, Nancy Fitch wife of Ivan Fitch

Frederick Jacob Kell is from the Mathias Fitch family

Bryce Ozanne from the Mary Jane Fitch Beers family



Helen Hawver and Lucille Cassell

The Cassells are from Pennsylvania

Cecil McComb in flowered dress



Claude Bowlby, Nancy Fitch - Ivan's wife,
Margueritte Wert and Marie Houser
both daughters of Amos Fitch, 5th child of
Sarah and Nathaniel.



Warren Fitch and Cecil Fitch
Warren is from the Mathias Fitch Family -
2nd child of Sarah and Nathaniel

THE 71ST ANNUAL REUNION
- OF THE -
NATHANIEL & SARAH E. FITCH FAMILIES

WILL BE HELD AT
RIVER LODGE - SHOAFF PARK - ST. JOE ROAD
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

JULY 29TH, 1973

LET'S HAVE THE LARGEST TURNOUT EVER!

BASKET DINNER - BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE.
PLEASE SEND GREETINGS IF YOU CANNOT COME.

BETTY FITCH, SECY.
14611 AUBURN ROAD
FT. WAYNE, IND., 46825

IVAN FITCH, PRES.
3631 W. DELPHI ROAD
MARION, IND., 46952



Jake Kell & Otis Fitch



Cecil Fitch McComb (standing) talking to Otis Fitch and Jake Kell



Marie Houser
Marguerite Wert
Nancy Fitch



Standing - Nancy Fitch
Elizabeth Fitch (Mrs. Bier)

Seated
Helen Hauser
Marguerite Wert
Marie Houser
Alice Deck



Helen Hauver & Cecil McComb
Audrey Sloffer in the background



Sarah Eliz. Kell DeBolt talking with
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Sloffer (Audrey McComb)
Nancy Fitch, wife of Ivan, in the background



Carolyn Kell Davis

Fred Fitch, back to camera

William Fitch from Ypsilanti, Mich.
(David Fitch family)



Bill Fitch

Evelyn + Robert Gloyd
and Russell Pusey

Fred Fitch

Jake + Otis

THE 72ND ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATHANIEL & SARAH FITCH FAMILY WILL BE HELD AT RIVER LODGE, SHOAFF PARK, ST. JOE ROAD, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA --

DATE - JULY 21, 1974

BASKET DINNER - BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE

PRIZES - FOR THE OLDEST, THE YOUNGEST, COMING THE LONGEST DISTANCE, AND THIS YEARS' GRADUATES. MUST BE PRESENT TO QUALIFY. PLEASE SEND GREETINGS IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND.

BETTY FITCH, SEC'Y.
14611 AUBURN ROAD
FT. WAYNE, IND. 46825

IVAN FITCH, PRES.
3631 W. DELPHI ROAD
MARION, IND. 46952



Mari Houser Marguerite West



Bill Fitch, Sara Sleeper, Elizabeth Fitch



Alice Dick, Bill Fitch, Sara Sleeper,
& Mrs. Bill (Elizabeth)

Perry Fitch family

John Fitch



Sally





Esther Titus, Amy + John



Carol + Jim Lockwood



Sister Anna Lowe, Bob & Evelyn Lloyd



Helen Howell



Minnie & Eunice Fitch
from Washington

THE 73RD ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATHANIEL & SARAH FITCH FAMILY WILL BE HELD AT RIVER LODGE, SHOAFF PARK, ST. JOE ROAD, FT. WAYNE, INDIANA.

DATE: JULY 20, 1975

BASKET DINNER: BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE

PLEASE SEND GREETINGS IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND. WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE - $7.50 EA.

BETTY FITCH, SECRETARY
14611 AUBURN ROAD
FT. WAYNE, IND. 46825



Helen Hawver

Dewey and Mary Ellen Kell Arnold



Philomena Fitch and elderly friend



Helen Hawver



Marcell Steffen, Babe & Evelyn Lloyd

It was again time for another Fitch Family Reunion, so on July 18, 1976, a small part of the clan converged on Shoaff Park in Ft. Wayne. There were 48 in attendance.

The minutes from the previous years reunion were read and approved.

The treasurers report was also read and approved. As follows: Reunion Expenses 63.75
Balance on hand 181.69

A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills for the reunion; invitations, postage, lemonade + cookies.

Correspondence was received and read from:

Francis & Ina Leacraft	- Mathias
Joan Macon	- Francelia
Cecil Fitch	- Perry
Elizabeth Roberts	- Francelia
Victor Fitch	- Perry
Lucille Oyanne Cassell	-
Chris Fair	- Francelia
Sara Fair Sleeper	- Francelia
Elizabeth + Bill Fitch	- David
Mr. + Mrs. Gordon Evans	- Perry
Dr Victor K. Fitch	- Perry
Merlin + Eunice Fitch	- Mathias
Mr. Dennis Adams	- Jane Fitch Beers
Marybelle Brogren	- David
Helen Sieks	- David

Carolyn Davis gone the new additions & corrections to the family roster.

This years new births.

Deaths:

Marriages:

It was discussed — do we want to have copies of these changes printed and sent to all who purchased family history books so they could be kept up to date? The cost would run around $22.00 a hundred — making each page cost around 22¢ or under. It was suggested that we send corrections every 5 years ~~so the books~~ keeping the books current.

Sister Mary Alma Louise suggested a news letter to be sent each year which would include the reunion invitation, thus saving postage by sending both in one letter. She suggested also that each family group have a reporter to send information on births etc as individual families dont keep us informed

Elizabeth DeBolt made a motion to start sending a newsletter this next year giving information & cost on additional pages for the history book & requesting those interested to write. It was seconded by Prof. Brown. Also assign reporters for each family group.

Frances Brown volunteered to do it for the Harvey Fitch family and Carolyn Davis for the Mathias Fitch family.

Solene Pusey gave a lovely memorial for those that passed away this past year.

It was decided unanimously to keep the same officers for the coming year

A collection of 44.85 was taken to help out with the expenses.

Another day of Fitch fellowship ended with cookies and lemonade.

July 7

Greetings to the Fitch Family from Anaheim!

We would love to be with you — but circumstances prevent it — we are spending the summer in California this year.

We do have hopes of making connections one of these years as we would love to meet and greet our Fitch relations!

Have a wonderful afternoon!

Affectionately,

Jean Macon

1581 W Pacific Place
Anaheim, Ca. 92802

(Mrs Roberts daughter of the Christian + Francelia Fitch family



Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Rd.
Ft. Wayne, Indiana
46825

R.R. 7 - Box 462
Sequim Wash
98382
June 24

Dear Folks all - We always look forward to getting the annual invitation even though we are never able to come. Maybe some day will make it

We are fairly well & feeling at home here in Sequim. At last we have a lawn in so the place looks better. The country around here is beautiful - we wish we could show it off to

some of you.

Both our boys & families are fine - our grandchildren are growing up. The oldest one, John, is in the marines & stationed at Pearl Harbor. Here recently they had a bad typhoon. He came through fine.

Notice the change in our address. The Post Office jiggled the routes around.

Greetings & best wishes to all of you & hope you have a wonderful day.

Mabel & Emma Fitch

Unfortunately, Betty,

...Barbara is working July 18th and the church choir is going to Indianapolis to sing, "I Love America".

We have a new address for you. 4511 Trier Rd. Ft. Wayne, In. 46805.

"Hello" to all, Betty, and have a nice day!

Sincerely,

VE

Dr. Victor K. Fitch

great-great grandson of Perry Fitch

VICTOR K. FITCH, D.C.
6605 E. State Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805



Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Rd.
Ft. Wayne, In. 46825

great grand-daughter of Perry Fitch

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Evans
will be unable to
attend the Annual
Reunion of the Nathaniel
and Sarah Fitch Family.

July 7, 1976

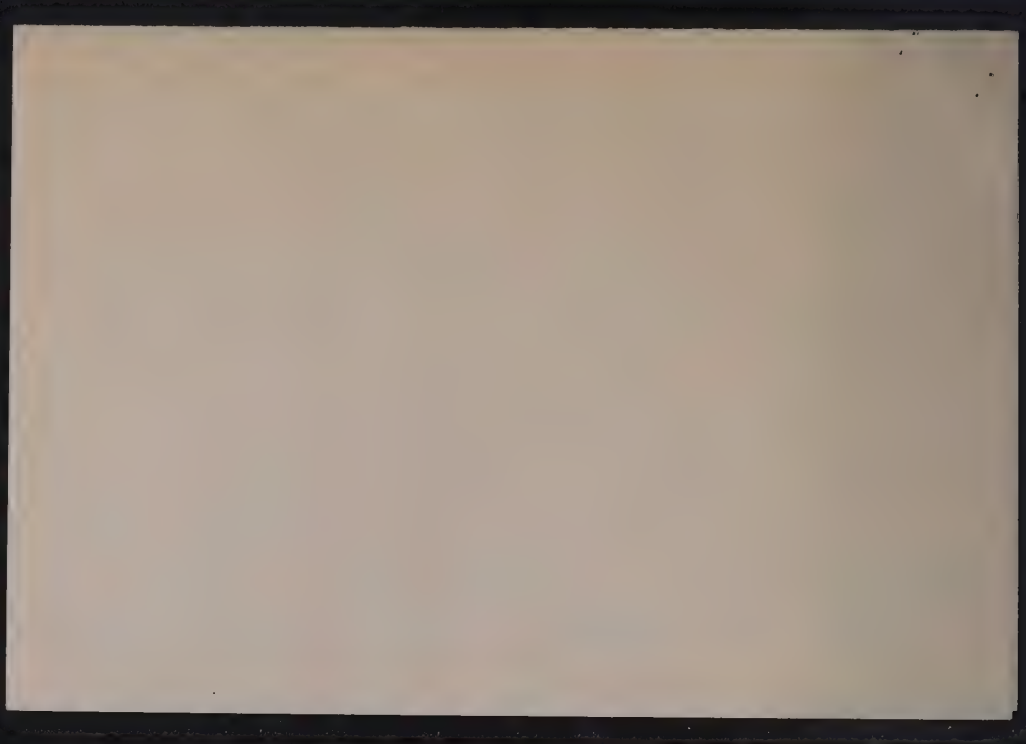
HFH

Sunday 15th July

Dear Betty;

I thought since the Times would ask for any other thoughts from our relatives before the issue was closed.

My daughter Mary Isella Brogran from Detroit wrote that "her family sent best regards to all at the reunion."



great grand son of Percy Fitch

on the go with *Jo*

Hello, from the Cecil Fitch Family. We may get to the reunion & again we may not. We never know what to plan. We have a couple items that should be given.

Cecil & Glenn's sister Icie, died Jan. 15

1976. She was the daughter of Oliver and Kathe Stokes Fitch. She was buried Jan. 17th beside her mother in St. John Cemetery, Oakbrook, Ill.

She was stricken with meningitis about a month before her death and was unconscious during that time. She later came out of the Coma but died about a week later. Those who remember her know how crippled she was

but her Crippling left her + she was so beautiful in death. It was a shame she couldn't lived long enough to know how to be like everyone else. She was 66.

A brighter side!

Heather Edaine Fitch was born May 12, 1976 to Richard + Marie Brown Fitch. Richard is our son. From our two Children we have been blessed with 8 fine grand children. Glenda's four are all teenagers! Richard is 8 years Younger

than his sister & they have three girls & a boy. Their new address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fit
2326 Herod Court N
Indianapolis
Ind. 46229.

Our daughters address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wal-
berry
R. 4
Huntington
Ind. 46750.

Love to all.

MRS. CHARLES W. CASSELL
ONE BIGGERT MANOR
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15205

July 15, 1996

Dear Carolyn,

Please sing Happy Birthday for me to all the Fitch clan gathered for this reunion. We had hoped to be with you this year, but our plans were sidetracked.

How many of our ancestors must have contributed in many fields to this Bicentennial anniversary? It boggles the mind.

Love and Best Wishes 'till next year —

Linda & Joanne Cassell

Mrs. Chris Fair
Alden, Kansas 67512
7-14-76

To the Fitch Family in Reunion on July 18, 1976

Dear Relatives:

Once again it is impossible for us to be with you. We hope that you have a nice day and know you will have a wonderful time eating and visiting.

Wheat harvest is over and the men are busy plowing the wheat ground and working the spring row crops. I am busy with my garden and yard work, canning, and regular duties around the farm. It seems that as we get older we also get busier - or is it that we are getting slower? Anyway, it seems that we are always too busy to even take a vacation.

The wheat crop here was better than a lot of places in Kansas, but the wheat at our farm in southwest Kansas was a disaster. It remained too dry all fall and winter out there, so the wheat did not make the proper growth during the winter months. Then the March winds came, and our ground started blowing. We went out to work some of the ground to stop the blowing. Still no rain, so no crop.

We will be thinking of you as you meet next Sunday. Whenever you go through Kansas on your way to Colorado or points farther west, please come to Alden to see all of your relatives here! If you travel I 70, we are about 50 miles south of it in the middle of Kansas.

Sincerely,
Glenna Fair
Mrs. Chris N. Fair

Christian & Francelia Fitch family June 24

Dear Betty,

Thank you so much for the card about the reunion. Now I ever received it, I don't know. It is black - only my address is discernible on the front and your name on the back. It looks as if it might have been in water. Anyhow, when I saw your name, I knew what it was. I send greetings and know you will have a great day. If any one ever gets out here, I would be so happy to be called. My telephone number is (602) 933-6785.

I don't remember whether or not I gave Carolyn Davis the change of address for my daughter Dana Elizabeth Gartner Cherene. It is 1569 Arbutus Drive, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94595. Incidentally, if the ladies who are P.E.O's will look on page 25 of the June Record, my daughter, Kay White, is in the picture of the new chapter in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Cordially, Elizabeth Roberts

Mrs. Norman Roberts
10721 Garneth Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351

Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46825

Levi and Jane Fitch Beers family

Mrs. Dennis Adams
66 Glen Road
Rochester, New York 14610

June 24, '76

Dear Betty — and all other relatives gathered for another historic REUNION;

Our little family is sorry not to be able to join you at The River Lodge this year. But we do treasure our copy of the Fitch Family History and ask that you please send us two more copies, Betty. (Check for $15.00 enclosed.) We are so glad that someone (probably several "someones") put so much love and effort into it.

Do have a wonderful reunion—
and keep it rolling!

With warm wishes,
Ellen Adams

Ellen Beers,
daughter of LeRoy Fitch Beers
son of Mary Jane Fitch

Christina and Franceline Fair family

PRAIRIE FLOWER CRAFTS
PIONEER STREET
ALDEN, KANSAS 67512

July 9, 1976

Mrs. Alan Sleeper, Owner

Dear Betty,

We will not be able to make the 74th Annual Reunion in Fort Wayne but we will make every effort to help celebrate the 75th!

My mother fell the 23rd of March and broke her hip and dislocated her shoulder but she has made a very good recovery! After three weeks in the hospital and a couple weeks in a health care retirement home, she came home and has been in her own home with sitters or aid companions. She gets around the house with a cane and does about as well as when she lived there before her fall. Sunday mornings is my shift so I'll not try to make the trip to Fort Wayne.

Everyone else seems to be in good health here. Our son Jim is with us and helps with our business and is very kind to his grandmother. Our daughter moved off the mountain top in Montana and, with her husband and 1½ year son is now living in Boulder. They manage to visit us once in awhile.

Our harvest turned out very well and wish the wheat price would advance along with the expenses!

Please give my best regards to the relatives. Wish I could be with you the 18th!

Fondly,

Jean Fair Sleeper

VICTOR W. FITCH
31 Lyman Street
Easthampton, Mass. 01027

7/12/76

Dear Carolyn:

Your letter has been on my desk for months but I am just recovering from a very serious operation and I have delayed my reply until I had a steadier hand - it was an anmurism in the aorta and I was very lucky - they say about 10% recover - I was hospitalized for 15 days -

There have been no changes or increases in the numbers - Michele is the only one married, just celebrated their 5th and are very happy - live in Pittsfield Mass - John has moved to Seattle from San Francisco - Victor is back in College after a 2 year stay in S America flying a helicopter for an oil explration Co - He had 2 tours in Viet Nam as a Pilot and John had over there in the infantry - Both returned without an injury - Very lucky -

We send our greetings to all and regret that we cannot attend this reunion -

Regards to all
Victor

573 Kewanee
Ypsilanti, Michigan
48197
July 13, 1976

Dear Betty,

I have beside me the announcement of the 74th Fitch Family Reunion. Once again we feel that we can't make it for this year, but will certainly plan to be there next year for the 75th. As last year, Bill is teaching summer school here at Eastern Michigan and finds his Graduate class very taxing with so many papers that must be read critically. However, after this summer, he will be retired, and then there will be nothing to tie us down.

I am enclosing an article from a newspaper which I have had for several years it seems. Perhaps you have seen the same story — wonder if this John Fitch knows about the Indiana family reunion.

Our two older daughters, Alice Deck and Charlotte Wuepper would like to attend a reunion but this year both are vacationing in other parts of the country. Alice has attended and her little daughter, Sa rah, became very good friends with Nancy Fitch. If she is there this year, we would like to be remembered to her and hope she is feeling better.

Best wishes for a successful day.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth + Bill
Elizabeth and Bill Fitch

Also we send greetings to Aunt Helen Hawver! We'd like so much to see her.

To: All Members of the Fitch Families

Seventy-five years ago on July 4, 1902, thirty-seven members of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch families gathered at the home of Jerome D. and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd. The day was a memorable one, for before departing at the end of the day a resolution was adopted to hold annual reunions. At that time there were approximately 70 living descendents and 22 through marriage. At the present time, the number has exceeded the 500 mark, with a much wider geographical distribution and a much wider diversification of careers.

Without doubt our pioneers left a great legacy to future generations to carry the torch throughout their lives. The light has burned brightly as manifested by the excellent records and historical data on file. We should be proud of our heritage by maintaining the spirit of friendship we have always enjoyed.

In 1972 the Fitch Family History was compiled and distributed. Recommendations were made to assure this information would be permanently preserved. The minutes of all meetings have been re-typed and placed on microfilm along with the Family History. The ensuing subject was some method by which the vital statistical information would be kept currently updated. At the 1976 reunion a five-year report was given enumerating the deaths, marriages and births during this period. The members realized the apparent need to establish some form of Communications Media. Some discussion ensued and decision was made in favor of a NEWSLETTER, the first issue to be published at the time of announcement of the reunion - 1977.

Are you interested in additional pages with this five-year report of changes in the family to add to your history book to keep it up to date? If you are, we will plan to issue new reports every five years. At the present time we do not know the exact cost to you for each set of pages but are sure that it will not be prohibitive. Please let us know if you are interested in this plan. We can only go by the response we get from you members of the family.

We invite a prompt response to this Newsletter as well as suggestions for material to be included -- maybe a suitable name, etc. There is no doubt the plan will grow and hopefully we will have some contributors from each family to share the compilation. Likewise, we would recommend each family be responsible for reporting new information (marriages, births, deaths, change of residences, occupations, etc.).

THE REUNION DATE FOR THIS YEAR, 1977, IS JULY 17, AT RIVER LODGE, SHOAFF PARK, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA. WE WILL HAVE THE NORMAL BASKET DINNER AND BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. THE FOOD IS ALWAYS SUPERB AS THE FITCHES ARE GREAT COOKS!

If you can't come, please send greetings. Some families have been sending us pictures. We love that! We would very much like to have a picture of each family as we are keeping a photograph book to hand down through the generations. We have it at the reunion each year. Just send us a family snapshot or if you don't have one, line up the kids and get busy. It's nice to have your names on file but you know how much more fun it is to look at pictures and it may be the only way we will know what some of you look like!

Trusting this Newsletter will be a means to bind us more closely together even though we are miles apart.

Sincerely,

The Fitch Homefront

Pres. Jake Kell

Vice Pres. Sister Mary Alma Louise

Secretary Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, In. 46825

From last years correspondence:

An invitation from Mrs. Chris Fair, Alden, Kansas ...
"Whenever you go through Kansas on your way to Colorado or points farther west, please come to Alden to see all of your relatives here! If you travel I-70, we are about 50 miles south of it in the middle of Kansas."

From Mrs. Norman Roberts, Sun City, Arizona ...
"If anyone ever gets out here, I would be so happy to be called. My telephone number is 602-933-6785."

CHARLES A CAPLE
BOX 526 352 JEFFERSON
CROMWELL IN 46732

7/3[illegible]77

PHONE 856-232P

To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE FITCH FAMILIES

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO ON JULY 4, 1902, THIRTY-SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE NATHANIEL AND SARAH E. FITCH FAMILIES GATHERED AT THE HOME OF JEROME D. AND FITELIA FITCH GLOYD. THE DAY WAS A MEMORABLE ONE, FOR BEFORE DEPARTING AT THE END OF THE DAY A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED TO HOLD ANNUAL REUNIONS. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 70 LIVING DESCENDENTS AND 22 THROUGH MARRIAGE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE NUMBER HAS EXCEEDED THE 500 MARK, WITH A MUCH WIDER GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND A MUCH WIDER DIVERSIFICATION OF CAREERS.

WITHOUT DOUBT OUR PIONEERS LEFT A GREAT LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO CARRY THE TORCH THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES. THE LIGHT HAS BURNED BRIGHTLY AS MANIFESTED BY THE EXCELLENT RECORDS AND HISTORICAL DATA ON FILE. WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE BY MAINTAINING THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED.

IN 1972 THE FITCH FAMILY HISTORY WAS COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED. RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE TO ASSURE THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED. THE MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN RE-TYPED AND PLACED ON MICROFILM ALONG WITH THE FAMILY HISTORY. THE ENSUING SUBJECT WAS SOME METHOD BY WHICH THE VITAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION WOULD BE KEPT CURRENTLY UPDATED. AT THE 1976 REUNION A FIVE-YEAR REPORT WAS GIVEN ENUMERATING THE DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS DURING THIS PERIOD. THE MEMBERS REALIZED THE APPARENT NEED TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. SOME DISCUSSION ENSUED AND DECISION WAS MADE IN FAVOR OF A NEWSLETTER, THE FIRST ISSUE TO BE PUBLISHED AT THE TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REUNION - 1977.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADDITIONAL PAGES WITH THIS FIVE-YEAR REPORT OF CHANGES IN THE FAMILY TO ADD TO YOUR HISTORY BOOK TO KEEP IT UP TO DATE? IF YOU ARE, WE WILL PLAN TO ISSUE NEW REPORTS EVERY FIVE YEARS. AT THE PRESENT TIME WE DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT COST TO YOU FOR EACH SET OF PAGES BUT ARE SURE THAT IT WILL NOT BE PROHIBITIVE. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PLAN. WE CAN ONLY GO BY THE RESPONSE WE GET FROM YOU MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.

WE INVITE A PROMPT RESPONSE TO THIS NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS FOR MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED -- MAYBE A SUITABLE NAME, ETC. THERE IS NO DOUBT THE PLAN WILL GROW AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE SOME CONTRIBUTORS FROM EACH FAMILY TO SHARE THE COMPILATION. LIKEWISE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND EACH FAMILY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING NEW INFORMATION (MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, CHANGE OF RESIDENCES, OCCUPATIONS, ETC.).

THE REUNION DATE FOR THIS YEAR, 1977, IS JULY 17, AT RIVER LODGE, SHOAFF PARK, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA. WE WILL HAVE THE NORMAL BASKET DINNER AND BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. THE FOOD IS ALWAYS SUPERB AS THE FITCHES ARE GREAT COOKS!

I'll agree! cac

[illegible]

If you can't come, please send greetings. Some families have been sending us pictures. We love that! We would very much like to have a picture of each family as we are keeping a photograph book to hand down through the generations. We have it at the reunion each year. Just send us a family snapshot or if you don't have one, line up the kids and get busy. It's nice to have your names on file but you know how much more fun it is to look at pictures and it may be the only way we will know what some of you look like!

Trusting this Newsletter will be a means to bind us more closely together even though we are miles apart.

Sincerely,

The Fitch Homefront

Pres. Jake Kell

Vice Pres. Sister Mary Alma Louise

Secretary Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, In. 46825

From last years correspondence:

An invitation from Mrs. Chris Fair, Alden, Kansas ...
"Whenever you go through Kansas on your way to Colorado or points farther west, please come to Alden to see all of your relatives here! If you travel I-70, we are about 50 miles south of it in the middle of Kansas."

From Mrs. Norman Roberts, Sun City, Arizona ...
"If anyone ever gets out here, I would be so happy to be called. My telephone number is 602-933-6785."

Thanks, Betty! Sorry all in-laws, ancestors of Grace Fitch, you know who they are, 4/30/82 The old Fitch bible, I don't exactly recall, to either Grace or maiden, your name. If Grace died prior to 6/1970. Dan 2/29/84: [illegible] Grace & I were born before Capt 10/1/[illegible] June 8, 1970. Dan 2/29/84: [illegible] I'm still alone and [illegible] that may continue. So Grace & I were born before Capt 10/1/[illegible] Grace & daughter Jane R. b. 11/30/59, then Bernadette Ann, b. 5/8/[illegible] Disc, Leann Ethel Capis - Collection b. 9/22/34. Father Louis [illegible] Gary Cameron b. 5/[illegible]/52, then David Allen C. b 4/5/49. Father: [illegible] b. 11/6-34. I was b 12/5/30. In summary of it [illegible] Thanks many times for "Grace" in the Colony. At present time I [illegible] it. Thanks for your part toward completion. I could [illegible] to meet with you at some appointed time. God Speed with all of [illegible]

Grace



Ivan & Nancy Fitch
John ~~Edward~~ Evan Fitch, wife & boys

Fred Fitch





Alice Deck
Daughter
Nancy Fitch



Marie Houser
Marguerite Wert
Cecil Fitch McComb
Helen Hawver



Marguerite Wert
Marie Houser
Elaine Kiebach
Vincent Kiebach



Sister Alma Louise
The Sloffers
Cecil McComb

[illegible] family in the background



Jake Keil
Elizabeth De Boit
Tim, Me, Warren
Amy, Daniel, Carol



Sara Sleeper
+ Son

Shoffers
Carol Fitch Lockwood
[illegible] Fitch



Jake, Mary Ellen, Carolyn

The Kells



Eliz. Carolyn Mary Ellen Jake and Elsie
Dewey Aenold





DEAR FITCH FAMILY COUSINS,

THE JULY 1978 REUNION WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED AT THE RIVER LODGE IN SHOAFF PARK, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA. THIS REPORT AS PROMISED SOON AFTER THE ASSEMBLY IS LONG PAST DUE; THE MATTER INDEED HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN AND IN FACT HAS NEEDLED MY CONSCIENCE MANY TIMES, HOWEVER, NEVER SEEMED TO COME INTO THE PRIORITY LIST- AND I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY.

THIRTY-SIX COUSINS ASSEMBLED FOR THE DAY WHICH WAS IDEAL. OTHERS SENT GREETINGS WHICH ARE APPENDED WHICH RELATE TO RESIDENCES AND OTHER ITEMS OF FAMILY NEWS.

AT THE BUSINESS MEETING GREAT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE WIDE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES, THEIR VOCATIONAL INTERESTS AND PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS WHICH PREVENT VISITS OR VACATIONS TO THE HOME FRONT AREA. DECISION WAS MADE TO RE-ACTIVATE THE NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS TO UPDATE THE FAMILY HISTORY.

THE SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS CONCERNED THE OFFICES AND OFFICERS OF THE GROUP, PARTICULARLY, THE SECRETARY- BETTY FITCH WHO RELATED HER FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE SUCH THAT SHE COULD NOT DO JUSTICE TO BOTH. AT THAT TIME NO RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM WAS APPARENT; HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS SOME PLANNING MUST BE DONE TO PRESERVE THE CONTINUITY OF THE FAMILY SINCE IT HAS BEEN SO WELL PRESERVED.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED CONCERNING THE NEWSLETTER AS OUR MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION. MY OFFERING OF SERVICE WAS ACCEPTED AND UPON THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THOSE PRESENT, ESPECIALLY OF THE SECRETARY AND KEN HARVEY WHO STATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SHARE THE WORK BUT DUE TO REMOTE LOCATION FROM THE HOME FRONT FELT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASABLE. WE AGREED THAT A LETTER SHOULD FOLLOW SOON AFTER THE REUNION BUT AS STATED FELL BY THE WAYSIDE DUE TO SOME UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME I FEEL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE IN EDITING THE LETTER IF THIS MEDIA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. WE WOULD ALSO DEPEND UPON YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVER COSTS OF PRINTING AND MAILING. THIS WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY PERSONAL SERVICE SINCE I AM A FAMILY MEMBER INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY PRESERVATION.

AS THIS LETTER IS SENT AS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 77TH REUNION WHICH WILL BE ON JULY 8 AT RIVER LODGE, SHOAFF PARK, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA WE SHALL DEPEND UPON YOUR RESPONSE AND FURTHER SUGGESTIONS. ALL MATERIAL WILL BE ASSEMBLED AND REPORTED THROUGH A NEWSLETTER. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE LOCAL LEVEL ALONE WITHOUT THE ADVICE FROM ALL OF YOU WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FITCH FAMILY. (BASKET DINNER - 12:30. BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE.)

ANOTHER SUGGESTION- WHAT WOULD BE YOUR INTERESTED IN MAKING AN ADDRESS LIST OF ALL FAMILIES? THERE MAY BE SOME MEMBERS OF THE FITCH FAMILY RESIDING IN YOUR AREA WITH WHOM YOU WOULD ENJOY VISITING FROM TIME TO TIME.

THESE ARE A FEW ITEMS AS MATTER OF SUGGESTION. YOU MAY HAVE SOME WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR WISHES. REPORT THEM TO THE SECRETARY FOR THIS YEAR.

SINCERELY,

SISTER M. ALMA LOUISE, CSC., RRA
IMMACULATA HALL CONVENT,
SAINT MARY'S, NOTRE DAME, IN 46556

REUNION NEWS - 1978

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

News was received of the death of Fred Wilson Fitch in March 1978.

Greetings were received from Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Evans (Carolyn Fitch) of P.O. Box 223, Knightstown, N.J. 08562 who sent regrets they would not be able to attend.

Ivan Fitch and wife Nancy of Marion, Indiana were in attendance.

MATHIAS FITCH FAMILY

Greetings were received from Merlin and Eunice Fitch of Rt.# 7, Sequin, Washington, 98382 who report:
"Once again we are happy to receive the notice of the Fitch Family reunion, but we are sorry we cannot make it. Every year we think, maybe NEXT year. Merlin is just not well enough to make the trip. Since the last reunion we had our 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. It was mostly a family party but very satisfying and rewarding. We send greetings to all and best wishes for the best reunion ever."

Greetings from; Francis Leaycraft Family- 5426 Olando- Lynwood, California, 90262.
"Sorry to be so long in answering your Newsletter and that we will not be able to attend the reunion." Francis has been ill and had several surgeries in the past year and is now on permanent disability retirement.

Members present were Jake Kell our President and family.
Warren and Betty Fitch our Secretary.

Charles Caple - husband of Grace Fitch was in attendance after many years absence. News of his death reached us early this year.

JANE FITCH BEERS FAMILY

From the Robert L. Beers Family who writes from Lompac, California.

"We regret that we will be in California and unable to attend the Fitch Reunion. There have been no changes in my family worthy of reporting. I did get back to Rochester to help Mother celebrate her 95th Birthday in April ..... With every good wish for a most memorable 76th reunion."

From Lucille Ozanne Cassell - One Biggert Manor, Pittsburgh, Pa 15205

"Please say 'hello' to everyone at the Fitch Reunion this year. I had hoped to be able to be there but our plans were changed when my husband would be in St. Louis on business- so I am planning to be with him. Maybe next year we can come to the reunion. Keep us posted."

CHARLES FITCH FAMILY

Greetings from Kenneth and Bernice Harvey - 4648 Dupont So. Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55409 who sent greetings and really came to visit the area and were present for the reunion. Kenneth reported the various occupations of his family; and it was Kenneth who prodded me on to writing the Newsletter.

From Lucille Fitch Kiernan of Rt. #1, Mertztown, Pa. 19539 who writes, "We wish we could be with you but it is impossible this year. Ill health seemed to be my most important pre-occupation; however, things are looking up a little better now." Bernice Harvey spoke a few words concerning Lucille.

AMOS FITCH FAMILY

Present were Margarette Fitch Wert and Marie Fitch Houser who were on hand to greet all on arrival. We are glad to see them each year and especially that they are able to attend.

Marie's daughter Margaret Elaine Kirbach and family were present and were planning to have a further visit with them.

FITELIA FITCH GLOYD FAMILY

On hand for the occasion were Iolene Gloyd Pusey and husband Russell; and Robert Gloyd and wife Evelyn.

Greetings were received from Rawles Moudy and wife Eunice of 5813 E. Fairmount, Tucson, Arizona 85712 who wrote:

"Perhaps one day we will make it to Indiana for the reunion. We are leaving on a vacation trip through the west which we have been wanting to make for a long time. We will be thinking of you on the 16th and wishing all of you well."

FRANCELIA FITCH FAIR FAMILY

Elizabeth Bressler Roberts of 11750 North Euclid # 61 - Garden Grove, CA 92640 who reports the death of her husband - Norman L. Roberts on April 24, 1978, following a series of illnesses. Her former issues of invitations to visit her in California remains open.

A greeting from Elizabeth's daughter Joan Macon residing 1581 W. Pacific, Anaheim, California 92802 sent regrets for not being able to attend the reunion as they will be away on a much needed vacation. Reports on the family are fine. One of the children will be graduating from High School; another is still in High School and one a college student.

From Sara Fair Sleeper - Prairie Flower Crafts - Pioneer Street, Alden, Kansas 67512:

"Until yesterday thought I might try to make the reunion this year; will try next year.

Sara Fair Sleeper- cont'd)

My mother is still in her own home with Jim, our son who is actively managing our farming interests. Our daughter is in Alden with her family. Surely hope you have a good turn out. Sorry to miss all the family."

HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

Present was Cecil Fitch McComb who is the last living member of the Harvey Fitch children. Attending with her was her daughter Ann McComb Kelham.

Greetings were received from her son Danford McComb who resides in Centerville, Ohio and is working in Maintenance Department at Sinclair Community College. Plans are to be in Canada on a fishing trip at this time.

Also present was Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC., from Saint Mary's Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, who is Archivist for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

SARAH FITCH STRATTON FAMILY

From the Donald Stratton Family - 516 Johnson Street, Wolf Point, Mt. 59201

"Since we are unable to attend the annual reunion we would like to bring you up to date on the Lee Stratton family, and send greetings to those who attend. Lee has been in Faith Lutheran Home for the past six years. He celebrated his 93rd Birthday on April 13, 1978. He is still mentally alert and in good health and uses a wheel chair on occasion.

Our family are all fine. Don keeps busy farming plus working at the Post Office.

DAVID FITCH FAMILY

Present was Helen Fitch Hawver, the only living member of the David Fitch Family. With her was her daughter, Mary Belle Brogren.

Greetings from other members of the family were received from:

William D. Fitch Family of Bush Road, Interlochen, Michigan 49643 who write: "I guess we will not be able to attend the reunion this year. We have sold our Ypsilanti home and purchased a condominium in Bradenton, Fla. Regards to all and we'll try to make it next year.

From Helen Fitch Silva Family of 6708 Point Drive, Edina, Minn. 55435

"It was such fun to be with you last year. We have just returned from a European trip. Our daughter is still in Europe; a son in Flint, Michigan and another son at camp in Minnesota. Our love to all."

Send greetings to --

Mrs. Betty Fitch, Secy.
14615 Auburn Rd.
Ft. Wayne, In. 46825

APRIL 1980

Dear Fitch Cousins,

Our Family Assembly of 1979 is now history. Twenty-five cousins gathered at the River Lodge, Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana on July 8, 1979. Those unable to attend sent greetings including laudatory comments on the Newsletter and generous contributions indicating a desire for continuation of the project as a means of perpetuating communication with family relationships.

After a delicious basket dinner and exchange of events in their families during the year, the members assembled to discuss matters of business and concerns.

1. Discussion and progress on updating of the Family History Book. Carolyn Kell Davis stated she had received some reports on marriages, births and deaths; however, the list is far from complete. A form is to be developed to send to distant families for this purpose; local families are to be contacted personally by telephone. The 4th and 5th generations are growing rapidly and we are already into the 6th. Carolyn mentioned the problem concerning the printing of the data; how it might best be accomplished.

2. Should we hold a reunion every year? The attendance has decreased each year; and secondly the assurance of rental of the Lodge presents a problem as reservations must be made immediately following January 1. Iolene Gloyd Pusey suggested another location, possibly Robinson Chapel Hall which probably could be reserved on shorter notice at no greater rental price than is currently in force. Iolene offered to investigate the matter.

3. We missed 3 of our "faithful" Senior members this year.
   Amos Fitch Family -- Margarette Fitch Wert who was unable to attend.
   Harvey Fitch F. -- Cecil Fitch McComb who sustained a broken hip and currently recovering from surgical fixation.
   David Fitch F. -- Helen Fitch Hawver who was unable to attend; however, sent greetings to all.

4. A suggestion had been made in a previous Newsletter of the possibility of preparing a current mailing list to be included in the next Newsletter. This has become a necessity as 15 letters were returned last year due to incorrect addresses. All but four have been reconciled. The list is current in so far as we know; however, we trust members of the family will assist us in providing correct information.

5. The Treasurer reported the following financial data:

Balance on hand 1978	$250.86
Interest on balance	9.17
Total	260.03
Expenses:	
For rental of Lodge	$ 28.50
Newsletter- Printing and postage	52.41
Total	$ 80.91
On hand as of July 8	$179.12

$35.00 had been given to the Treasurer as donations and contributions towards the Newsletter.

6. Matter of Officers was brought up. Whether to keep a full slate of officers or not. Betty Fitch tendered her resignation as there was possibility of moving to Tennessee in the spring of 1980. Sister M. Alma Louise offered to continue editing the Newsletter and combining this with Secretarial duties as most of the items would be incorporated into the Newsletter. The other officers to be retained as contact persons.

Items of Interest during the year.

Sympathy is offered to the families of:

Perry Fitch Family -- Bessie M. Fitch, wife of Fred Fitch deceased July 15, 1979 at Colonial Crest Nursing Home, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Perry Fitch Family -- Nina Davis Fitch, Wife of Ivan Fitch, deceased fall of 1979, Marion, Indiana.

Mathias Fitch Family -- Merlin Fitch, deceased February 13, 1980, Sequim, Washington.

Illnesses:

Amos Fitch Family -- Margarette Fitch Wert sustained a fractured hip sometime during the year. Exact data is not known.

Marie Fitch Houser likewise had the misfortune to fracture a hip while visiting with her daughter in Ohio. Subsequent information and details are not known.

The Memorial Service for 1979 was led by Evelyn Gloyd for the following:

Dale Kistler - husband of Lottie Fitch Kistler (dec) on March 17, 1979.
Lucille Fitch Kiernan, October 29, 1979.
Alice Jane Fitch Getty - date not known.

Perry Fitch Family -- Christmas greeting from Sue Ann Fitch who writes from Denver, Colorado; "I am a Law Student at the University of Denver to graduate in December 1980." We say congratulations and good luck to you. Thank you for sending us your new address.

FINALLY - This Newsletter serves as the announcement of the 78th Annual Reunion to be held at the River Lodge, Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, IN (usual place) on July 20, 1980. The suggested plans did not materialize. We will have the usual Basket Dinner asking each to bring their own table service. We again ask you to send greetings and news of your families during the year. We likewise expect your comments on the Newsletter as well as any incorrect addresses on the mailing list. If there are additional names to be added please inform us. Hopefully, we would like to get a Newsletter to all soon after the Reunion and then perhaps one soon after the first of each year if we receive enough news.

With best wishes and we do hope you can plan to be with us on July 20, 1980.

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC. Editor and Secretary
Immaculata Hall Convent, Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, IN

President - Jake Kell, 16827 Kell Road, Huntertown, Indiana 46748
Treasurer - Russell Pusey, 2905 Union Chapel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Historian, CarolynDavis, 417 Dalgren Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805

ROBERT BEERS
445 OAK HILL
LOMPOC, CAL.
93436

Jane Fitch Beers

8 July 1977

Dear Betty,

Just a quick note to thank you for the letter concerning this year's Fitch Reunion. We will be unable to attend but hopefully in another year or two we can.

Evelyn and I just returned from a sabbatical trip around the world visiting Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Samoa, Cyprus, Romania, Malta, Italy and the 4 British Isles countries. It was most interesting and rewarding.

One bit of information for the record: Our daughter Gail was married on 10 June 1976 to Stephen Phillips. They are living in Westwood, California (P.O. Box 1000, Zip 96137) where they are both studying Forestry at Lassen Jr. College.

And now back to work. I'm compiling some 12 travel-log type reports on Communities I studied during my sabbatical. I have over 2000 slides and 10 hours of recordings to make into units for school kids.

Sincerely,

Bob Beers

Box 1388
Salina, Kansas 67401

June 27, 1977

Mrs. Betty Fitch
14611 Auburn Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825

Dear Betty,

Appreciated so much receiving your nice letter regarding the Fitch family history, the newsletter, and the general information. Yes, I would like to be included in the report so please put me on your mailing list.

I would like to bring you up to date on a couple of items in my own family:

1. My address has changed from 15 Crestview Drive t0 2102 Brookwood Lane, Salina, Kansas 67401.

2. I have remarried and my wife's name is Nancy. (Formerly Nancy Romeiser Swartz).

While we are a good distance from Fort Wayne and will not be attending your reunion, we certainly wish you the very best of success and happiness at the get to gether on July 17.

Sincerely,

Steve Bressler



Francelia Fitch Fair

Perry Fitch family

VICTOR W. FITCH
31 Lyman Street
Easthampton, Mass. 01027

5/23/77

Dear Cousins:

Believe it or not I was present (7/4/1902) at Jerome's on that eventful day - I was 9 years old and ate too much and didn't feel well - It was a warm, sunny day + everyone had a very good time - 8 miles each way in a Spring (?) Wagon helped me to remember that gathering.

Yes, we favor the 5 year reports and would like 5 copies of each report. I will pay for this issue and no doubt others will gladly pay for later issues -

The Newsletter is an excellent idea - Do Let us Know how + where everyone is - for example -

all Belong To Us:

John Pendleton is in the theatre in Seattle Wash
Craig " " " a Bank in Seattle.
Victor " " is in Saudi Arabia flying a helicopter for Carlsen & Co
Mechelle + Husband Joseph Lawrence live in Pittsfield Mass and are christening their new daughter Erika Mae born 3/9/77, this next Sunday 4/26/77. Enclosed is an invitation to the affair.

We think you are doing a fine job, Keeping the interest up, and giving the new generation a sense of value + pride in their forefathers - for the Fitch family is one of the 72 great families in America -

Our Best wishes to all

Victor W. Fitch

Route 7 Box 462
Sequim, Wash
98382

June 27 '77

Dear Cousins,

Again we have to say that we are sorry we can't make it to the picnic but we keep hoping Merlin isn't very well but he is up & around and manages a little ride around the country side every day.

Our two boys, Bob & John, & their families are fine.

Anything the group decides about the 5-year update on the book, & the news letter will be fine with us.

We send greetings to all & hope you have a wonderful time at the picnic.

Sincerely,

Eunice & Merlin

Mathias Fitch
family

Huntertown, Ind.
Aug. 1, 1977

Dear Betty,

I will try to bring our family up to date.

In Marjorie's family. (You have Marjorie's death?)
Tom & Becky Freck have two children:
1. Sarah Elizabeth Freck - B. July 21, 1974 - Nashville Tenn.
2. Andrew Adam Freck - B. May 16, 1976 - Nashville, Tenn.

In my family:
Charlotte wedding date is wrong, Dec. 12, 1958 is correct.
Paul Eugene Stoffer - married 1st Nov. 23, 1973 to Huntertown
Belinda Raub - B. Nov. 4, 19[illegible] Terre Haute, Ind.
They have one child Molly Maxwell - B. May 28, 1976 Ft. Wayne
B. Aug. 5, 1957 Montgomery Co., Tenn.
David, married Vanessa Jones July 16, 1976
Clarksville, Tenn.

~~The~~ Sam & Linda Stoffer have 2 children:
1. Ty Samuel - May 26, 1974 - Pereira Colombia - So. America
2. Monica Rae - Aug. 21, 1976 - Ft Wayne, Ind.

(over)

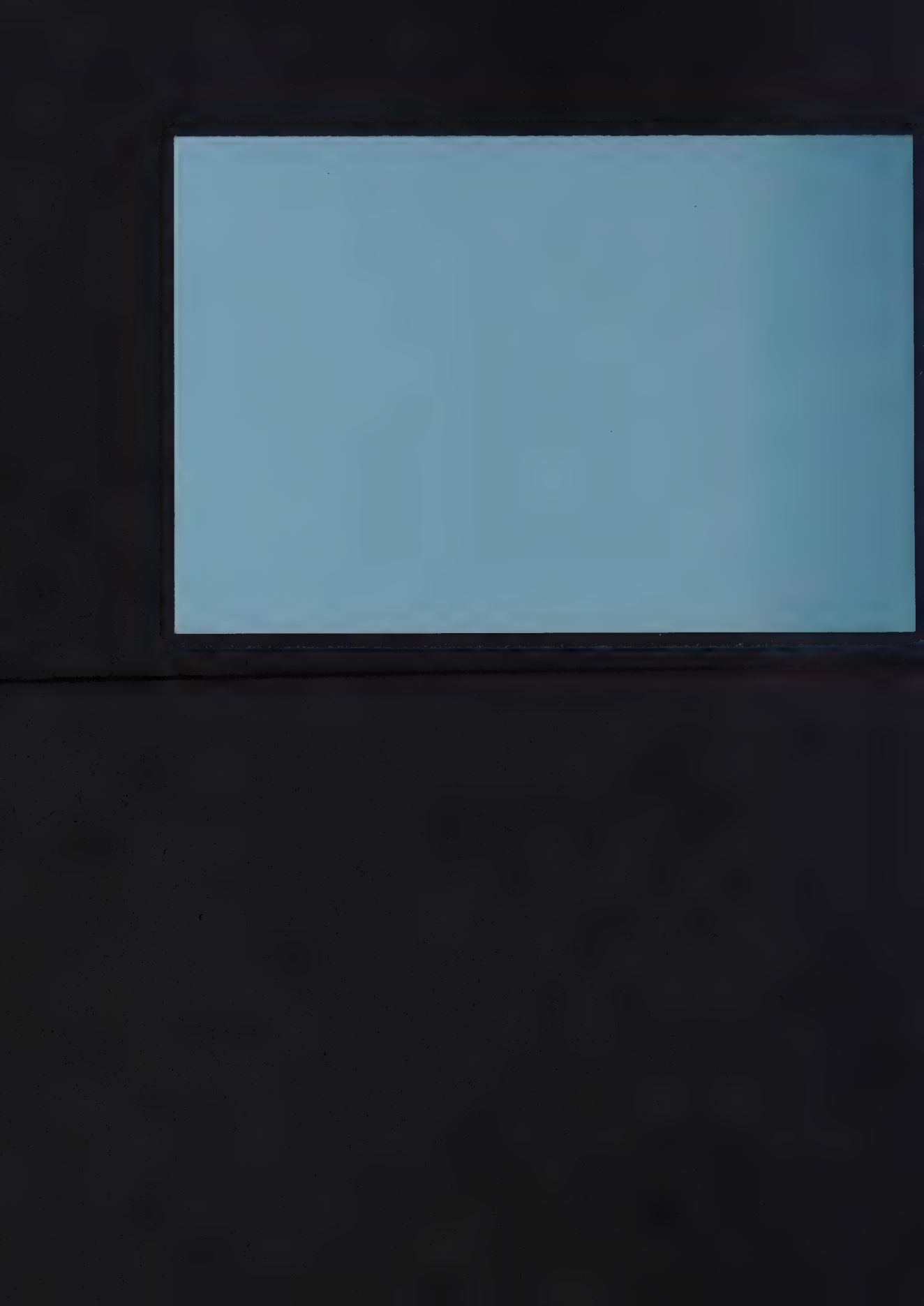
I told Inez, Dorothy, Phyllis and Dad's kids about bringing their families up to date. They said they would. I told them by Sept. first, I hope they all do it.

sincerely,
Marcella Hoffer

Aug 4, 1977

Dear Betty — and all
other responsible for
keeping the Fitch family
reunions going —

Thank you so much!
It was great to be
with you this year.



June 28, '77

Dennis and Ellen Adams
66 Glen Road
Rochester, New York 14610

Dear Betty,

Thank you for the invitation to the 7th Reunion. I do wish we could be present but it is impossible.

We would favor up-dating the family history record book. It is wonderful that someone (or someones) is (or are) willing to do the work involved.

Keep up the good work. I'm proud to belong to such a family! - Ellen Beers Adams

(Granddaughter of Mary Jane T.)



Betty Fitch, Secy.
14611 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46825

Our
~~Her~~ son and his wife have just
bought a house (built in 1830).
Their new address will be:—
Mr. Charles W. Cassell (Bernadine)
9 Independence Ave.
Lexington, Mass.

Bill, Jr. works in the management
end of a chain of small newspapers.
Bernadine has just taken a posi-
tion with Polaroid Corp. in Cambridge.

No further family news.

Please say "Hello" to the gathering
on July 17.

Love -

Lucille Dynamo Cassell

Jane Fitch Bives

MRS. CHARLES W. CASSELL
ONE BIGGERT MANOR
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15205

July 8, 1977

Dear Tulsa Homefront #1

The Newsletter sounds like a wonderful way to keep in touch with the Oak. It sounds like a lot of work for someone — and I send my thanks.

We had hoped to be able to attend the reunion this year, but a business trip interferes. Maybe we'll be able to arrange it next year.

My husband survived a stroke a year ago with no lasting problems and is back at work as usual. He is one of the lucky o

could establish no direct line of relationship. He was very pleasant to talk to. He spends the summers in Java and has his family history there. The quote at the beginning of the article is really from a John Fitch who appeared on "What's My Line" earlier this spring.

About the quotes at the end of the Newsletter - I'm happy you included mine - but I thought it interesting that both Chris Fair and I are grandchildren of Franceda Fitch Fair!

May you have the best reunion ever!

Cordially,

Elizabeth B. Roberts

July 3, 1977

Dear Betty,

Thank you so much for sending me the latest news of the Fitch family. I am heartily in favor of the five year report of changes. I have tried to keep up with sending in the changes of my own family through Carolyn Davis — who has been so helpful — because she was the one with whom I had contact for the family history.

I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed clipping from our local paper. I called Lucius Fitch but

MRS. MARJORIE F. SHAFFER
2420 EAST MAXWELL LANE
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

July 21, 1977

Dear Betty:

My husband and I want to thank you and Jake Kell and Sister Mary Alma Louise for all the work that went into the Fitch reunion. We enjoyed it very much.

I have already written Carolyn Davis and sent her a picture of our family. We appreciate all she has done and is doing with the family history.

In future years would it be possible to rent an air-conditioned place for the reunion? Possibly a lodge hall, church activity room, or a community center of some kind. I think we would all be willing to pay to have a more comfortable atmosphere. I believe more people would attend.

Also, would it be possible to rent a public address system? Since we get together just once a year it is very important to hear everything that goes on.

Thanks to everyone for all you are doing.

Sincerely,

Marjorie F. Shaffer

Mrs. John William Pearson
201 Crestway Lane
St. Paul, Minnesota 55118

Dear Ms. Fitch,

I have been out of the country for several months and found your letter about the 75th reunion of the Fitch Family upon my return.

I am interested in the Newsletter and future plans for updating my history and further communications. If a fee is required, I am in agreement and await instructions as to what is required.

I am sorry to have been so tardy in answering your letter.

Sincerly,
Elizabeth Fitch Pearson

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INDIANA DIVISION
REFERENCE DIVISION
DIVISION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

July 6, 1977

The Fitch Family
% Mrs. Harry Heinzerling
Rural Rotue 1
Garrett, Indiana 46738

Dear Mrs. Heinzerling:

This will acknowledge receipt of the Fitch Family History.

A copy of this compilation will be made for our collection and the original given to Mrs. Alig to return to you.

Thank you. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Weimer

(Ms) Diane Weimer
Librarian
Genealogy Division

DW:tw

Waterloo, Ind.
July 5, 1977

Dear Betty,

In reply to your letter, yes I would like to have at least the family history update that includes up to and including the rest of our family history.

I'm sure you have most of our family except our new addition we received a year ago last May. But to be sure, I'll give you our Children's names and th... of th... f... i...!

(1) Larry Walberry & Glenda Lee Fitch - Warren May 11-57
Russell arden Walberry - Nov. 26, 1955
Marshall Dennis Walberry - Nov. 2, 1959
Tracy Ann Walberry - July 31, 1961
Angela Marlene Walberry, January 1, 1963
Their address is Mr. & Mrs. Larry Walberry
R. 4, Box 264
Huntington, Ind. 46750

(2) Richard Fitch & Marie Donnette Brown - Aug. 27, 1966
Robin Lea Fitch, Jan. 21, 1968
Tamara Lynn Fitch, December 11, 1970
Timothy Richard Fitch, July 8, 1971
Heather Elaine Fitch, May 12, 1976
(our Centennial Baby!)
Richard's new address
2326 Herod Ct N
Indianapolis
Ind. 46229

Cecil's sister Ida Fitch, passed away January 15 1976. I hope you have Lottie's death date. I can't remember the exact date. Me and Glenn are the only two left. Was surprised to learn that Frances only had four Cousins - Cecil and Glenn were not included.

I can't seem to get Cecil to come to the reunion but there are so many that I would like to see again.

We usually go to the Cottage on Saturday afternoon & stay over Sunday. Cecil is so involved in his work that he really needs to recuperate over the weekend & I need to get away from the phone and radio. So tell everyone We send our love & best wishes to those that remember us.

With Best regards to all.

Cecil & Josephine Fitch
Waterloo
Ind.

Perry Fitch family



"FLOWERS FOR ALL"
Painting on wood
From an original oil – De Grazia Gallery In The Sun
6300 North Swan, Tucson, Arizona

No. 35-DL94

Sandstone CREATIONS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Francelia

July 5, 1977

Dear Bill,

We were happy to receive your letter. We wish we could be with you on the 17th for your [illegible] party. [illegible] ready to go to Phoenix [illegible].

We would be delighted to have the family [illegible] spend it with [illegible] family. It would be nice to have our pictures taken by someone who takes the pictures! I am free for next year's picnic.

How about the Fitch Family Picnic for a committee book? I'd like to read about what everybody is doing - I'll bet we have lots of people doing good things!

The committee on the Fitch [illegible] has one of those [illegible] will be trying to [illegible] the book [illegible] to visit my mother (Plymouth [illegible]).

[illegible] to have the family [illegible] picture it will turn out! [illegible] family photo but all of us [illegible] I'm the [illegible] I will try to get one [illegible]

Please give our greetings to all. If anyone of you can come to Disneyland, give us a call (714-956-1246) we'll give you hamburgers in the back yard & swim in the back like at the park!

Sincerely,

Jean Mason

July 12, 1977

Dear Fitch Family,

I enjoyed The News Letter and think it is a great idea! The only suggestion I can think of is to put in historical articles about some of our members of fame or even of no fame.

I would very much like to have the History Book up to date so keep me in mind for additional pages.

I hope The '77 Reunion is a great success and best wishes to all of you!

I'm enclosing a "snap" but unfortunately my daughter, Sarah, took it so she's not in it and son, Charles, is currently in Wash. D.C. so is also absent.

From left to right, husband, Clarence, son, Michael, me-Lucy, grand-daughter, Lucia Vilankulu, son-in-law, Artur Vilankulu, grand-daughter, "Cina" Vilankulu.

Love to all,
Lucile Fitch Kiernan
Charles Fitch Branch

Mrs. Allen Fitch Harman
348 Meadowview Drive
Ft Wayne Ind 46807

Descended from
David Nathaniel Fitch, the 15th child
of Sarah & Nathaniel Fitch

David Nathaniel Fitch, was the youngest of
the 15 children of Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch
David Nathaniel was brought up on the Fitch
home in Allen County. He attended school in
the county, and in Ft Wayne. David
wanted to become an animal doctor. With
his Fitch determination he succeeded. He
graduated from the Chicago Veterinary
College and became a Veterinary Surgeon. He
practiced for many, many years in Auburn
and the surrounding rural towns.
He married Emma Belle Stirlen in 1887. They
lived their entire married life in Auburn & they
had many time. They were determined that their three
children would become college graduates and
they did that very thing. The two sons graduated
from Purdue University, and their daughter
was a graduate of Western College for Women, Oxford Ohio

July 25 - 79

Dear Betty

You have been such a good ~~loyal~~ loyal Betty - We want you to be right with us for next year.

We will certainly miss you when you go to Tennessee. Thanks for being such a faithful Fitch-ite

Bless you

address Mr & Mrs Wm LeVay
1821 Paul St
Ft Myers Florida
33901

Mr & Mrs John B. Scofield
Jill get Mary Belle to send the Scofield address to you at once.

Please excuse my writing, I am using my lap as a table (good excuse for a poor writer!)

Love to you Betty
Helen F Hawood



I

Ernest Harvey Fitch the youngest grandchild of Nathaniel Fitch lived on the old homestead untill he pass away 1969 in Calif. where he had gone to spend the winter. His widow still live on the old homestead.

Their daughter Suzanne was the only one of their three children to be born in the old home.

The rest are a few of the stories members of the family related to me.

When the government open up the land in Iowa Nathaniel decided to go. He walk most of the way as men that went by were on horse-back.

The last day before he got to the town where the land office was a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift.

When they got to the town the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him Nathaniel turn him down.

after eating the man went to the landoffice. The clerk told him, he had sold the last of the land to a Nathaniel Fitch. He is that man standing across the street. The man remark that is the man that rode in town with me. I thought he was a wander. I offered to buy his supper. He doesnt look like he had a dime.

Father Harvey Fitch said he was the baby when they moved in the new house.

They were deer, wild turkeys, and peacocks in the woods. There were time's when they had seven hired hands to help do the work.

He said we didnt have a variety of food but had plenty of it. meat, potatoes, and bread if we had any thing sweet it was maple syrup or sorghum molasses. Mother did all the cooking in the fire-place.

At that time where the dining room, bathroom, and half of the keitchen is now was one big room with a fire place where the back door is now. Nathaniel had a loom on the west side where he

did all the wearing for their wool clothes.

A cobber would come and stay untill he made leather boots for all the men folks. Father said if you got them wet you had to wear them till they were dry or you couldn't get them on again

When his father came home for a short visit while working on the canal. If the creek was runing full he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money he would go and get his money belt.

Father said one time a big log roll over his father he was never so well after that. The family thought it shorten his life.

5 "From Bess Kell."

Grandmother Sarah Fitch was very critical with her family but she had a mischievous side to.

One time when Bess was here two of the daughters came for a visit. Grandmother invited Bess to go on the train to do some shopping in Fort Wayne with her. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track where the train would stop for them.

On there way walking home Grandmother said lets rest a while. Before starting on. Grandmother took her drawers off tied knots in each legs and put their packages in the legs then put it over her shoulder, and remark. Lets hear what the girls will have to say.

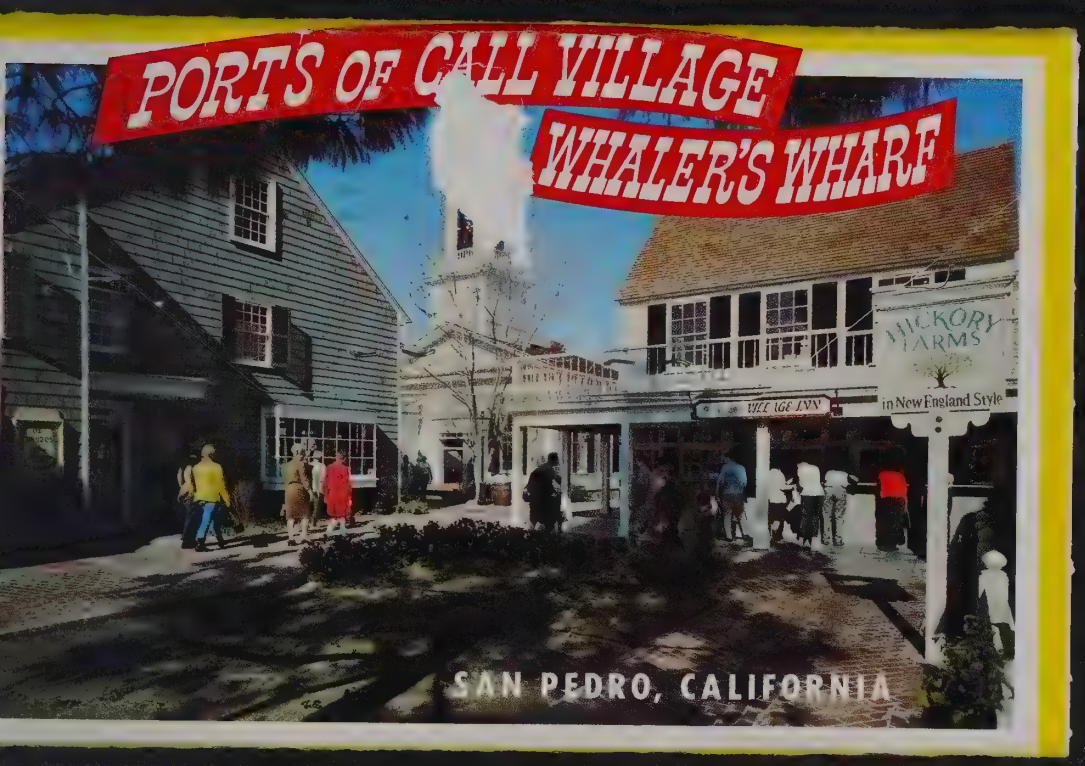
"Nate Mc Comb"

This is a story he told Ernest about his Grandfather Fitch.

Nathaniel went in a farm store in Fort Wayne, a young clerk ask him, what can I do for you Nathaniel said I want a mill stone.

The clerk went to the back room where the proprietor was and said. There is a man out their that wants a mill stone. They cost four hundred dollars, he looks like he couldn't afford one.

The proprietor came to the door to see who it was. He told the clerk that is Nathaniel Fitch sell him five of them if you can. He is a big land owner north of here.


PORTS OF CALL VILLAGE
WHALER'S WHARF
HICKORY FARMS
in New England Style
VILLAGE INN
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

Greetings from

PRINTED IN U.S.A.
MIRRO-KROME ® PRODUCT MFD. BY H. S. CROCKER CO., INC., SAN BRUNO, CALIF. 94066

BUILT TO RECAPTURE the nostalgia of olden days, Ports of Call Village Whaler's Wharf is a most unique recreational, tourist and shoppers' attraction...the only one of its kind on the West Coast. It contains an Old California Village whose architecture is patterned after a West Coast port community of the mid-1800's and a Whaler's Wharf, with buildings, furnishings and decor reminiscent of a fishing community such as New Bedford, Massachusetts, was a hundred years or more ago.

In the Village area (the north half) there are specialty restaurants and scores of high quality shops—complete even to romantic cobblestone streets lighted by gas lights. The old ferryboat "Sierra Nevada" built in 1913, which once carried automobiles and passengers over San Francisco Bay between Richmond and San Rafael, has been refurbished and is now permanently tied up alongside the Village. She has several shops, and there are eating areas from which one watches the constant procession of yachts and fishing boats, and great ships that come and go from all over the world along Los Angeles Harbor's main channel. There is a Gay Nineties styled sidewheel excursion and party boat, complete with rinky tink piano. Even the walks and plazas of the Village have characteristic names: Cutlass Cockade Chantyman Boun Flintlock Lanthorn

In the Whaler's Wharf area (the southern half) are more and different shops, bakeries, fish markets, and many other facilities built and decorated just as they were during the heyday of the famed Yankee Whalers, Clipper Ships and blue water fishermen.

Ports of Call Village-Whaler's Wharf is easily reached via the Harbor Freeway: Turn off onto Gaffey Street in San Pedro, thence south on Gaffey, turn left on 6th Street and continue on past Beacon Street. Turn right just beyond the railroad tracks, and follow the road on south. Soon a large parking area is seen. Ports of Call Village-Whaler's Wharf is at the left, beyond the parking lot, clustered along the water's edge of the Main Channel



FISHERMAN STATUE



SCENE FROM STERN OF FERRYBOAT "SIERRA NEVADA"



VINCENT THOMAS BRIDGE



A PLAZA IN PORTS OF CALL VILLAGE



MANY SHIPS COME AND GO AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES



FLOWERFUL CORNER



MEANDERING WALK THROUGH WHALER'S WHARF


THIS IS FASCINATING
PORTS OF CALL VILLAGE
WHALER'S WHARF
PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT
USA 13c
M.V. PRINCESS
PORTS OF CALL
in Full Color
To Betty Fritch
1461 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, Ind.
46825

March 1981

Dear Cousins,

Time passes all to quickly as we find two months of 1981 have passed. The NEWSLETTER has been delayed due to need of assessment of finances following the 1980 costs involving the various projects.

Our family gathering of 1980 was the smallest ever numbering twenty cousins. Your secretary reported preparation and mailing of 160 copies of the Newsletter and address list in April 1980. 13 copies were returned as undeliverable due to incorrect addresses. There were 10 letters of greetings received with two donations.

The #1 topic of discussion was renewed; Should we hold a reunion every year? Rather than discontinue the matter abruptly, Robert and Evelyn Gloyd offered the hospitality of their home, north of Fort Wayne at 13428 on the Old Auburn Road, for the second Sunday in June 1981 which will be June 14. Evelyn wrote out the directions as follows: "If coming Route 69, turn off at the DuPont Road exit- then West to the first cross road, turn right (North) and continue past Union Chapel Road to the 6th Mail Box, back a long lane." This generous invitation would save the rental of the Pavilion and hopefully stimulate interest in our gatherings by reverting to earlier traditions.

The report of the Treasurer should confirm our financial situation and need for decisions as to our future."

Balance on hand as of July 9, 1979		$259.90
Expenses: 1979-1980		
Rental of Pavilion		30.50
Mimeographing- Newsletter-Address List		54.17
Postage		60.00
Family Book - Update		90.00
	Total	$234.67
Balance:	$25.23	
Collected + Donations	41.00	
	$66.23	

PORTS OF CALL VILLAGE
WHALERS WHARF
THIS IS FASCINATING
PORTS OF CALL VILLAGE
WHALER'S WHARF
in Full Color
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA
OLD SAN FRANCISCO BAY FERRY "SIERRA NEVADA" AT WATERS EDGE
AN ENTRANCE TO WHALER'S WHARF
HARBOR CRUISE
EXCURSION AND SIGHTSEEING BOATS
THE LAGOON AT PORTS O' CALL RESTAURANT
A MAPA AT WHALER'S WHARF

March 1981

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	$66.23	

After a most difficult task of updating the Family History Book, Carolyn Kell Davis tendered her resignation as Historian of the Fitch Family.

The following deaths were reported and two following the reunion:

Perry Fitch Family:	Bessie M. Fitch, wife of Forest Fitch	July 15, 1979
	Nina Davis Fitch, wife of Ivan Fitch	1979
	Victor Fitch	Dec. 17, 1979
Mathias Fitch Family:	Merlin Fitch	Feb. 13, 1980
Sarah F. Stratton Family:	Leander Stratton	Feb. 12, 1980
	Marguerite Stratton Nobles	July 31, 1980
Harvey Fitch Family:	Cecile Fitch McComb	Oct. 16, 1980

Copies of the greetings of the ten cousins were made and distributed to those present to enjoy rather than reading them aloud as the acoustics were not the best. Since the reunion Jake and Elsie Kell celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 15, 1980 with an Open House.

We invite your decisions and suggestions to continue the NEWSLETTER as our communications media with the problem of financial assistance. Should we assess a subscription fee for those who wish to receive the NEWSLETTER? This would not place undue burden on those who send donations?

Trusting you will plan to be with us in June. Please bring your own dinner service as previously along with your delicacies of food.

Best wishes and do let us hear from you,

Sister M. Alma Louise csc.

Your Secretary and News Editor,

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC.

May 4, 1983

Dear Warren and Betty,

Just a note in haste to let you know I received the shocking news of the death of Ivan Fitch on September 4, 1982. I had sent a copy of the NEWSLETTER to Ivan and a Mr. Howard Fagan responded informing me of his death.

I have written to Jake Kell, Iolene Pusey and Carolyn and wanted to pass the news on to you. My concern is how much of the family material he had in his possession which should be turned over to the group.

Hope all is well with you and hope you can be with us in June.

Fondly,

Mary Louise



The FITCH Homestead April 1983

today.

Dear Cousins,

Time is fast approaching when another family get-together is scheduled. Robert and Evelyn Gloyd have again offered hospitality at their lovely country home 13428 Auburn Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana for June 12,1983. Not wishing to impose upon them or wear out the "Welcome Mat" we do wish to respond to their generosity as it does seem to be the best locality to share our family visits as well as a delightful area for the children to play. We do hope you can be with us at least in spirit if not in person by sending your good wishes so we can share the news with others. The same procedure for providing food and your own table service remains in force.

Regardless of the promise to get a NEWSLETTER out soon after the Reunion has never seemed to materialize due to lack of news to justify the twenty-cents postage. However, several messages did arrive during the year which we share with you at this time.

June 12, 1982 was a lovely summer day when thirty some cousins and four guests met at the country home of Robert and Evelyn Gloyd. It was indeed a most pleasant surprise to greet Ivan Fitch who had been unable to attend the past few years. Also we were happy to greet another out-of-state cousin, Sara Fair Sleeper of Alden, Kansas who has been trying to be with us for several years. Sara brought some beautiful handicraft articles made at her shop. As previously mentioned Iolene and Russell Pusey were unable to attend due to a planned trip to Hawaii at this time. Russell, our Treasurer left a report of current assets in the amount of $ 153.64. A very generous collection was contributed by those in attendance plus donations received in the letters which followed bringing our total to over $ 200.00. Thanks to all and we may be able to add a more artistic touch to our NEWSLETTER in the future. Sara Fair Sleeper offered assistance in providing mailing labels through the use of equipment in her shop. The remainder of the meeting was spent sharing some family experiences and interesting incidents.

Now for the correspondence received:

Francelia Fitch Fair
Family

From Elizabeth Roberts whose new address is:
278 North Wilshire A-15
Anaheim, California 92801

Elizabeth writes:

"I am the the busiest little old lady that you know....I have applied as Instructionist Aide in Anaheim... I have been taking Spanish lessions this summer just in case I get in a school with Mexican Children... I have also applied for training in the Orange County Hospice Association."

N.B. We hope you have been successful in meeting all your good ambitions. Let us hear from you again.

Amos Fitch Family: Marie Fitch Houser- 125 1/2 South Randolph Street,
Garrett, Indiana 46738

"I was glad to get the "NEWSLETTER" with information about the Bowlby's. At reunion time I had to go to the hospital and was there for a week. I am getting along all right alone. My daughter Joan is a great help to me."

N.B. Marie's sister Margarette Fitch Wert has been transferred from Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, Indiana to Miller's Merry Manor, Garrett, Indiana to be nearer to the family. Margarette has not been able to communicate following a cerebral accident; otherwise her physical condition remains about the same.

Perry Fitch Family: K.D. Fitch - Wheatridge Colorado.

"Greatly appreciate the NEWSLETTER. Although I have been out of touch with other than my immediate family I may be able to attend a reunion. Give my kindest regards to all the other members of the family. Briefly, I am a semi-retired General Practitioner of Vetinary Medicine. At present my main avocation is Ocean Sailing both pleasure and racing... That is on the West Coast if you are wondering how a Coloradan would sail on an ocean. My health is excellent.

My daughter Sue Ann Fitch Gilpin is an Attorney for the Public Defender's Office of Jefferson County. Her new address is: 808 South Gilpin Street, Denver, Co 80209

The youngest daughter Sandra Jean Fitch Colby is a tenured teacher at the Junior High School in Jefferson County; Her address is Mrs. Michael Colby- 2929 Raleigh Denver, Colorado. 80212.

K.D.'s mother Maureen (Mrs. Oscar) Fitch resides at Rosedorf Apt. # 13-
1215 Cowen Street, Garrett, Indiana 46738. Maureen observed her 80th Birthday last June 23, 1982.

N.B. Thank you for the donation to the cause. We hope you will be able to attend a reunion. It has not been held traditionally on July 4th for some time; mostly in June. This year it is on June 12. We would all be happy to have you with us.

From Jane Fitch Beers Family: Lucille Ozanne Cassell- One Biggert Manor
Pittsburgh, Pa 15205

"Bill finished his project with Proctor and Gamble in Green Bay, Wisconsin and we have moved back to our home in Pittsburgh. Have been busy packing and un-packing. Wish I could be with you at reunion this year but my best wishes and 'Hello' will have to suffice this time.

N.B. Thank you for writing Lucille and hope you can be with us some other time.

Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family: Rawles and Eunice Moudy of Clarksdale, Arizona:

"Greetings to those able to attend the reunion...We are both well and continually enjoying out new home here in the Verde Valley and all the fine people we have met here.

N.B. Thanks for your note and enclosure. Hope you can be with us sometime.

After going to press we learned of the death of Marion Hardwick, husband of Hazel Moudy Hardwick of the Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family on April 2, 1983 at San Clemente, California

Mathias Fitch Family: Carolyn Kell Davis sent clippings reporting the deaths of two members of the family. The clippings are reproduced and follow:

Funeral services for Dr. Richard L. Ober, 52, Temple Terrace, Fla., were held Monday at the graveside in Myrtle Hill Memorial Park. Dr. Ober was a former teacher at Garrett High School from 1952 until 1957 and son of Jesse E. Ober, whom the grade school was named in memory of.

Masonic funeral services were held by Temple Terrace Memorial Lodge No. 330 F & AM. Following the graveside rites a memorial service was held at the Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Gerald L. Voye officiating.

Dr. Ober was a graduate of Manchester College, Ohio State University and Miami University, Miami, Ohio. He had lived in Tampa for the past 14 years and was a professor in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

He was a member of the Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church, Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330, F & AM, Scottish Rite, Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Fraternity and the Alumni Association of Ohio State University, Manchester College and Miami University.

Survivors include his wife, Maxine; a son, Gerry; three daughters, Susan Furlough, Teresa Ober and Sharon Ober, all of Temple Terrace, and a brother, David Ober, Muncie.

Memorials may be made to the Hillsborough County Heart Associaton.

The family's address is 624 Gail Avenue, Temple Terrace, Fla., 33617.

Blake E-A Dawson, 7 year-old son of Michael and Deborah Dawson of Lake Worth, Fla., died Saturday night in Parkview Memorial Hospital after a long illness. The family had been visiting the child's maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Holcher, New Haven, over the holidays.

Also surviving are the paternal grandmother, Charlotte Clark of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and a great-grandmother, Evelyn Holcher, Fort Wayne.

Arrangements are by E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, New Haven. There are no services or calling hours.

This is the extent of our report for this issue. We hope some of the cousins will be able to travel to Indiana this year. We would like to see some of the younger members exhibit their talents to carry on with the NEWSLETTER. There is so much interest in Genealogy that it would seem our younger generation would be encouraged to follow on with our heritage. Think about it wont some of you?

Fondly,

Sister M Alma Louise C.S.C

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC.

MESSAGES FROM FITCH COUSINS

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

Doris Fitch Pendleton sent notification of the death of her father, Victor Fitch on December 17, 1979. Since her mother is no longer able to maintain her home, she has moved to Connecticut with Doris and her family. She was grateful to receive the mailing list and stated that they have two sons living in Seattle, Washington. She sent them a copy as there might be a possibility of having distant cousins as next door neighbors.

JANE FITCH BEERS FAMILY

From Stephen and Gail Phillips: "We will be unable to attend but did appreciate the invitation and the Newsletter. Stephen has just graduated from Chico State University with a B.A. in English and has accepted a position with a publishing company in Chico, California. I work for the Forest Service as a log scaler in the summer season. We recently bought our first home. We saw my grandmother Mrs. LeRoy Beers in January as well as my Aunt Ellen Beers-Adams. Thanks again for the Newsletter. Hope you have a splendid reunion.

CHARLES FITCH FAMILY

From Kenneth and Bernice Harvey: Appreciated the NEWSLETTER and Address List. We were through Fort Wayne in April enroute to visit our daughter and family in Herndon, Va. Sent their greetings to everyone and keep up the good work.

AMOS FITCH FAMILY

From Joan Houser Dove: Her mother Marie Fitch Houser is back in her own home following her accident resulting in a fractured hip. Yes, Marie was present for the reunion along with her daughter Elaine Kirbach and family. Margarette Fitch Wert is currently residing at Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, Indiana.

FRANCELIA F. FAIR FAMILY

Elizabeth Roberts: Was very grateful for the NEWSLETTER and Mailing List. From this information she realized there were about ten families fairly close in Southern California. She conceived the idea to try for some kind of family gathering on July 20. At Christmas time Elizabeth wrote being disappointed on her project due to no response. We are sorry Elizabeth, maybe more luck next time.

SARAH FITCH STRATTON FAMILY

Donald Stratton Family: Reported the death of Leander Stratton in February, 1980. He had been in Faith Lutheran Home for 8 years and had been in fairly good health until about a year ago. His greatest joys were having his grandchildren and great-grandsons visit him. Sent a new address for John Stratton and indicated a continuation of the Family History Book.

Mary Baird wrote: "I am sorry we won't be there as we are fortunate enough to have plans to be on a five week trip in France." We hope you had a profitable trip Mary. Maybe you will be able to tell us about your safari. Mary sent the address of Marguerite Stratton Nobles who has since passed away.

Elizabeth Bowlby Newell: Stated that she had moved back to Fort Wayne following the death of her second husband. Sent some corrections on names and addresses which we are happy to have.

DAVID FITCH FAMILY

From William D. Fitch: Sent an interesting reminiscence on Allen and Emma Hartzell.

Marjorie Fitch Shaffer: "Thank you for the Newsletter and list of names and addresses. My husband and I will not be able to attend the 1980 reunion because we will be studying Spanish in Mexico for the month of July." Hope you had a profitable summer.

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

Recent letter from K.D. Fitch of Wheatridge, Colorado, sent a new address which reads: 9300 West 38th Ave., Wheatridge, Colorado 80033. Thank you, we are glad to hear from you.

AUGUST 1981

On the second Sunday in June 1981, twelve families of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Family gathered at the beautiful country home of Robert and Evelyn Gloyd. There were 36 persons counting 11 children who enjoyed the privacy of the surroundings. The day recalled many memories of former days when the reunions were held at different family homesteads from time to time.

Before partaking of the delicious food contributed by those who came, prayer was offered by Ronald Hoot.

At the business meeting a report on the Newsletter was given stating that 96 copies were mailed with only three copies returned as undelivered. This was a rewarding experience due to the updating of the address listing. There were a number of responses as well as generous donations. All respondents strongly encouraged the continuation of the NEWSLETTER. Further discussion on the matter resulted in decision to follow through on perhaps a smaller basis to include:

1. Our Senior Citizens
2. To those who have responded and indicated interest, primarily to those who have sent donations; and to those who have attended the reunions or indicated reasons for not attending.
3. A suggestion was made by the Secretary for anyone who wished to assist or would be able to edit the Newsletter, their offering would be gladly accepted.
4. A suggestion was also offered for families living in distant areas to send reports of their family gatherings from time to time. Such items certainly would be newsworthy and be of interest to all.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Helen Fitch Hawver of the David Fitch Family on June 19 in Fort Myers, Florida. The Funeral was held in Fort Wayne and Interment was in Lindenwood Cemetery.

The financial report was given by the Treasurer which showed an increased Bank Balance due to generous donations and collection in the amount of $131.93.

We were happy to have had with us Alice and Sarah Deck of the David Fitch Family from Okemos, Michigan who were enroute to Bloomington, Indiana to attend the ceremonies for Richard Shaffer, husband of Marjorie Fitch Shaffer on the occasion of retirement after 40 years on the Faculty of Indiana University. Marjorie had written earlier of her regrets on not being able to attend this year as the dates coincided for both events. Marjorie promised to try to attend the next reunion.

Iolene Gloyd Pusey reported telephone messages from Sarah Fair Sleeper that she was hoping to attend but plans did not materialize. We hope things turn out better next year, Sarah.

A call from Marie Fitch Houser of the Amos Fitch Family, who was visiting her daughter Elaine Kirbach in Cleveland, Ohio, came during the day. Marie had written earlier of the possibility of not being able to attend this year, however, we were able to have the opportunity of talking with her on the day.

Before the meeting closed discussion on coming together next year, and even though our groups are small along with the letters expressing their regrets, the members expressed desire to come together again next year. Robert and Evelyn Gloyd invited us once again to share their home stating there was no undue hardship on preparations. Their invitation was accepted and in case you have forgotten the directions, we repeat: "If coming Route 69, turn off at the Dupont Road exit - then West to the first cross road, turn right (North) and continue past Union Chapel Road to the sixth mail box, then right, back a long lane." We hope this will encourage some to share our pleasant experience this past year.

We parted after a most enjoyable day with a promise on the part of your Secretary to spread the good news and have this NEWSLETTER in your hands by September. Perhaps if enough news is forthcoming to justify another edition early in 1982, we might do so. Let us hear from you.

Other Communications:

Mathias Fitch Family — Eunice Fitch (Widow of Merlin): "Thank you for the Newsletter. Enclosed is a donation to help keep them coming. Please note a change in address as I have moved from Sequim, Washington back to 1707 Jefferson Street, Apt. #3, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801, my home town."

From Mary Ellen Kell Arnold: Thank you for the letters of the Fitch cousins. We have been unable to attend recently as my husband has been bedfast since August of 1980. I am caring for him at home. Does handweaving and needlework in spare time.

Jane Fitch Beers Family — Ellen Beers Adams: "Thank you for the March letter. We wish to report the death of Ellen Darrohn Beers (widow of LeRoy Beers) at the age of 97 years. Biography enclosed. We also wish to indicate our continuing interest in the Fitch Family Reunions and the NEWSLETTER even though we live so far away we can only rarely attend. Enclosed is a check to help the cause along. It was very kind of the Gloyds to offer the use of their home. Thank you to them. Also to Carolyn Davis for her long years of service."

Charles Fitch Family — From Kenneth and Bernice Harvey: Gratitude to the Gloyds for offering their home. Expressed concern over what might be the best method to keep up the news and records. Sent regrets for not being able to attend as health problems have developed in the form of Diabetes and is on a strict regimen for control. Thus far has not been on medication but feels it is forthcoming.

Amos Fitch Family — Message as stated in the former report.

Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family — From Rawles and Eunice Moudy of Clarksville, Arizona who report a new address as: Star Route Box 408, Clarksdale, Arizona 86324. Appreciate receiving the NEWSLETTER. Sent a donation and thank you very much.

David Fitch Family

From Marjorie Fitch Shaffer: Thank you for the March 1981 NEWSLETTER. Thanks to Robert and Evelyn Gloyd for their generous offer to host the 1981 reunion. Sorry my husband and I will not be able to attend due to previously planned ceremonies in connection with his retirement after 40 years on the Faculty of Indiana University. Sent a donation. If a reunion is held in 1982 we will try to attend to rally the members of the David Fitch clan.

Jane Fitch Beers Family

A letter from Lucille Cassell: Looks like we will miss the reunion again this year. My husband has taken on a consulting project for Proctor and Gamble in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They have rented a small apartment and expected to move around in July. They have kept their house in Pittsburg. Their Wisconsin address is: 1425 Western Ave., Apt. 24-A, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Alma Louise csc

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC

Secretary and Editor.

June 1, 1982

Dear Cousins,

This is a most belated follow-up NEWSLETTER promised you in the August 1981 issue. The item of great concern was the fact I did not mention the date of the 1982 reunion to be held on June 13. I do hope this has not been a matter of inconvenience to you if you had planned to be with us.

The main topic of interest probably rests in the severe winter Indiana Residents experienced and the subsequent flood in Fort Wayne. However, the entire nation seemed to have some form of disaster at some time or another. However, we did survive.

As stated above I am sorry to be so late in sending the notice and date to you. It seems like there is more and more pressure to meet deadlines. Could it be that age is showing-causing us to slow down and not get as much done as previously?

We have received a few news items which may be of interest to our distant relatives. Carolyn Kell Davis has kept me well informed by sending clippings from time to time.

Of the Sarah Fitch Stratton Family ;

We have the celebration of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Claude and Helen Stratton Bowlby. Both are residents of the Riverview Care Center in Fort Wayne. I visited them last August when I delivered the NEWSLETTER to them.

Claude mentioned how much he enjoyed the reunions when he was able to attend.

The Bowlbys

Mr. and Mrs. Claude H. Bowlby, 2827 Northgate Blvd., will observe their 70th wedding anniversary on Tuesday. Bowlby and the former Helen Stratton were married Nov. 24, 1911, in Niles, Mich. They are the parents of Mrs. John D. (Elizabeth) Newell, Fort Wayne; Mrs. James C. (Claudia) MacInnes, Pasadena, Md.; Mrs. Duncan (Mary) Baird, St. Paul, Minn., and the late Mrs. Carl E. (Ruth) Schafer. They have nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Bowlby both were employed by Ohio Valley Plywood Co, Cincinnati, O. He is former manager of Payton-Fisher Lumber Co., Fort Wayne.

From the Perry Fitch Family we report the following deaths :

Esther Gallmeyer Fitch widow of Victor Fitch in December 1981. Esther has resided with her daughter , Doris Fitch Pendleton since 1968.

Esther D. Fitch Dec. 1981

Services were Friday in the Edmund B. Mitchell & Son Funeral Home in Easthampton, Mass., for Esther D. Gallmeyer Fitch, 85, of Branford, Conn., a resident of Fort Wayne until 1931.

Mrs. Fitch, who died Dec. 2 in Branford, was born in Fort Wayne and resided in Northampton, Mass., until moving to Branford in 1968. She was a member of the Zonta Club and the Northampton Women's Club.

Surviving are two daughters, Doris Pendleton, of Branford, and Carolyn Evans, Wrightstown, N.J., and a sister, Ruth Irmscher, Fort Wayne. Burial was in Brookside Cemetery, Springfield, Mass.

Ivan Fitch reported the death of his sister, Floretta Fitch Wyatt on February 21, 1982 in Garrett, Indiana. Ivan is the only remaining member of the immediate family of Bert Fitch.

Of the Francelia Fitch Fair Family;

Sarah Fair Sleeper called Iolene Gloyd Pusey concerning the death of her mother Nina Fair, widow of James Fair which occurred in Alden , Kansas on January 14, 1982.

Other news items which may be of interest concern:

Jake and Elsie Kell who had an Alaskan Tour last fall. We will try to get more details when we meet at the reunion.(Matthias Fitch Family)

Marie Fitch Houser (Amos Fitch Family) is living in her apartment in Garrett, Indiana following an illness last fall. She spent a few weeks in a Nursing Home which was formerly the Garrett Hospital which was closed and now is being utilized as a Nursing Home. Her sister, Margarette Fitch Wert has been transferred to the same facility from Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, Indiana.

Iolene and Russell Pusey have sent their regrets of not being able to attend the reunion this year as plans for a trip to Hawaii coincided with this date. We will miss them but hope they have a most pleasant trip to report for the next NEWSLETTER.

Again I apologize for this belated letter especially since so many sent donations and appreciation for the communications with the family. I do think this is the only means of keeping in touch in with each other. Again I would like to see some of our younger members become interested in circulating the news.

With all best wishes , I remain

Sister M. Alma Louise CSC

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC.,

Secretary and Editor.

May 10, 1984

Dear Fitch Cousins,

As reunion time is drawing near we are reminded our family communication is overdue. However, with a few complications which have arisen we probably need not correct any former statements. Without doubt we all share like sentiments on our Winter weather and wonder whether Spring will ever arrive weather-wise.

At the last reunion held on June 12, 1983 thirty cousins met again at the country home of Robert and Evelyn Gloyd on the Auburn Road, north of Fort Wayne. The weather was ideal and all spent an enjoyable day exchanging news and vacation travel. Jake and Elsie Kell related experiences of their travel by bus to Alaska and Canada. We were happy to have Elaine Houser Kirbach and her husband Vince with us from Ohio. Elaine expressed regrets that her mother Marie Fitch Houser was unable to attend ; however, she brought with her Esther Fitch , widow of Otis Fitch (Mathias Fitch) who has recently moved into Garrett, Indiana near Marie Houser. They also brought news about Margarette Fitch Wert who is still in a Nursing Home at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Those who sent regrets of being unable to attend afforded interesting data on their families and events occuring during the year. All expressed their appreciation of the NEWSLETTER.

An interesting letter from Fred (Tom) Fitch (Perry Fitch) of Almont, Michigan was addressed to Robert and Evelyn Gloyd who shared the information with those attending the reunion and likewise we pass the contents to you. Fred regretted being unable to attend as the date coincided with Anniversaries and Birthdays, close of school etc., Fred mentioned teaching Science at the local Junior High School ; his wife Pat works part time at the LaPeer County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse. Fred writes:" Our Honey Business (Fitch Apiaries) is still growing. We have over 100 hives. If all goes well we will add another 200 hives next year. Our daughter Laura(4 years) is the assistant beekeeper and loves to go out to the bee yards."

Editor's Note: Thank You , Fred for sharing your family news with us as well as the donation to the cause. We hope we can continue our family relationships in the future.

Messages were sent to Robert and Evelyn Gloyd and were reported at the meeting. Sara Fair Sleeper of Alden,Kansas; Lucille Cassell of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

A letter from Marjorie Fitch Shaffer(David Fitch Family) of Bloomington, Indiana who reports a change of address, moving into a new condominium just a few blocks from our home of the past 30 years. Address now : 2420 East Maxwell Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Editors Note: Thank You Marjorie for the news and the donation. Hope we can see you sometime.

From Rawles and Eunice Moudy(Fitelia Fitch Gloyd) of Clarksdale, Arizona who sent their regrets and would be thinking of us on June 12.

Editors Note: Thank you- we always enjoy hearing from you.Hear you had a visit from Iolene and Russell Pusey recently.

* From Elizabeth Roberts (Francelia Fitch Fair) a Christmas note who reports a change of address from coast to coast. " I've long wanted to make this move- decided it was now or never. I will be 80 on January 3." Her address now is 10286 Iron Mill Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235.

Editor's Note: Thank you Elizabeth . We hope you are enjoying the change.

* To any others who have sent regrets but did not reach the Editor's Desk please excuse the omissions. Be assured they were not intentional. Also any monetary donations for which we do thank you.

DEATHS:

Following the issue of the 1983 NEWSLETTER word was received of the death of Ivan Fitch(Perry Fitch) who passed away in Delphi, Indiana on September 2, 1982. The NEWSLETTER was mailed to his home and response was received from a personal representative. The immediate concern regarding materials and family records since he was President for so long prompted investigation. A few pictures were sent for the files but apparently any other memorabilia was directed elsewhere.

Claude H. Bowlby, age 92 husband of Helen Stratton Bowlby died August 9, 1983. at Riverview Health Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Claude and Helen had been patients at the Health Center for several years. To our knowledge Helen is still resident at the Health Center.

Dewey S. Arnold, Age 83 husband of Mary Ellen Kell Arnold (Mathias Fitch) died after a three year illness on March 26, 1984. He had received devoted care during these years administered by his family.

BUSINESS MEETING:

At the Business Meeting the financial statement revealed a substantial amount in the treasury from donations and collections. A motion was made to reimburse Robert and Evelyn Gloyd the sum of $ 25.00 for their hospitality. We all realize there is more work involved regardless of any mention.

The dates of holding the next reunion was discussed. Mention was made to move the date to the third Sunday but on afterthought this would coincide with Father's Day which would be no better. Robert and Evelyn again offered their home.

Word was received of Robert's hospitalization for a heart problem for which a Pacemaker was inserted, the results of the latest report that he is adjusting well. However, under this condition of affairs it does not seem wise to place any burden upon the family when other arrangements could be made. Discussion with the other officers who arranged with the Gloyd's to hold the reunion elsewhere this year.

Iolene Pusey has made reservations for the use of Robinson Chapel Basement for June 24th, the last Sunday in June. Dinner will be served 12:30 P.M. so bring your food contributions as well as table service and be with us if at all possible.

Robinson Chapel is located at 12800 Tonkel Road north of Fort Wayne. If you are coming I-69 exit at DuPont Road- for those coming from the South turn right at this exit- for those from the North turn left which will bring you to Highway # 1 - old Leo Road. The Tonkel road joins Highway # 1 . Follow the Tonkel Road a short distance to arrive at Robinson Chapel.

We hope to see you on June 24th. With best wishes to all and Thank You once again for your interest and good wishes.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Alma Louise csc

Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC

Your Secretary / Editor.

January 1985

Dear Fitch Cousins,

The Annual Reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch Families was held at Robinson Chapel, 12800 Tonkel Road, north of Fort Wayne on Sunday June 24, 1984. The weather was beautiful and delightfully cool for thirty cousins with their families to share visits with each other.

We were happy to see Robert and Evelyn Gloyd present to offer hospitality as in the past years at their home. Robert apparently has responded well to his recent illness.

Welcome greetings were extended to the following cousins who had not been with us for several years:

Perry Fitch Family — Fred (Tom) Fitch and family drove from Almont, Michigan to be with us;

Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family — Hazel Moudy Hardwick of San Clemente, California who was visiting in the area came with her brother James Moudy of Akron, Indiana: and

Mathias Fitch Family — Mary Ellen Kell Arnold and son Mark Arnold of Fort Wayne. Mary Ellen had not been able to be with us for several years due to the illness of her husband.

After a delicious luncheon provided by members attending a few matters of business were in order. Jake Kell, President presided at the meeting. The secretary reported the minutes of the past reunion were contained in the NEWSLETTER.

The secretary reported more response to the NEWSLETTER this past year with favorable reports from all who wrote. A suggestion was made to perhaps make two issues each year if sufficient news was received to make it worthwhile. The price for printing was quite reasonable as it is done at Saint Mary's adding to convenience.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. A number of donations had been received adding to a substantial sum in the Treasury so no collection was taken this year. Iolene Gloyd Pusey reported no specified charge was made for the use of the basement for the meeting but left it to the group to make an offering. A motion was made, seconded and carried to give $ 25.00 for this purpose.

It was likewise moved and carried to hold the reunion at Robinson Chapel on June 23, 1985. We hope some of our distant cousins will join us if able. As the years move on it seems the NEWSLETTER will be the answer to keep in touch with one another. It is hoped we will be able to continue the communication. Perhaps some of the younger generation may become interested in their family history. Let us all think about this matter.

Communications received prior to the Reunion were:

Francelia Fitch Fair Family — Sara Fair Sleeper, telephone call to Iolene Gloyd Pusey.

Perry Fitch Family — Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Evans (Caroline Fitch), Wrightstown, New Jersey sent regrets of being unable to attend.

Charles Fitch Family — Kenneth and Bernice Harvey of Minneapolis, Minnesota wrote a very interesting letter concerning their activities. Both are quite well and quite active in a Richfield Singing Group who give one or two concerts each week to various groups and Nursing Homes. Also both do Volunteer Church work and love it. Kenneth and Bernice send greetings to all the cousins.

Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family — From Rawles and Eunice Moudy who sent a change of mailing address- from Star Route- to 408 Lamplighter Village, Clarksdale, Arizona,86324. "Send greetings to all the Fitch cousins. Since we cannot join you for the yearly reunion- we really enjoy the NEWSLETTER."

David Fitch Family — From Marjorie Fitch Shaffer- Bloomington, Indiana sent regrets of being unable to attend. Attention was called to address correction which should be 2606 East Second Street- Unit F. Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Jane Fitch Bee Family — Gail Beers has reverted to her maiden name following divorce from her husband Stephen Phillips. Gail gives her address as Gail E. Beers- 144 West 21st Street, Chico, California 95926.

Following communications and news items were received in August and days following;

Francelia Fitch Fair Family — From Elizabeth Roberts who writes; " Here I am again" I'm moving again. The condo where I live has been sold so I must be out by the end of September. I have plans to build a room on the back of my daughter's house. After October 1 my address will be 2012 Deauville Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235. Elizabeth continues, Virginia continues to enchant me. I'm making a life for myself again."

Elizabeth reports deaths of two sisters-in-law;

Nina Burgess Bressler- widow of Palmer Fair Bressler on July 21, 1984

Dorothy Stevenson Bressler-widow of Christian Norman Bressler- July 30, 1984

August 12, 1984

Helen S. Bowlby, 91, died Sunday in Riverview Care Center.

Born in Wichita, Kan., Mrs. Bowlby was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church, the Fort Wayne Women's Reading Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants. She was a niece of the late Gene Stratton Porter, Indiana naturalist and author. Her husband, Claude H., died in 1983.

Surviving are three daughters, Elizabeth Newell of Fort Wayne, Claudia MacInnes of Pasadena, Md., and Mary Baird of St. Paul, Minn.; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

There will be no calling or public services. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery with arrangements by Klaehn's Wayne Street Chapel, 420 W. Wayne St. Preferred memorials are gifts to the donor's favorite charity.

November 20, 1984

Calling today for Marie Houser, 93

Marie F. Houser, 93, formerly of 125½ South Randolph street, died Tuesday at 1:05 p.m. in Miller's Merry Manor. She had been at the nursing home since Nov. 2.

Friends may call from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. today at McKee-Miles Funeral Home, where Eastern Star services will be held at 8 p.m. Her funeral will be in the funeral home at 1:30 p.m. Friday. Pastor Ronald Bowman will officiate and burial will be in Cedar Chapel Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church.

Born June 29, 1891, in Butler Township, she was the daughter of Amos and Nancy (Hunter) Fitch. She and Arthur Houser were married in Garrett on Oct. 26, 1916. He preceded her in death May 30, 1955.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Ralph (Joan) Dove, Huntertown; Mrs. Vincent (Elaine) Kirbach, Bay Village, Ohio; a son, Richard Houser, Xenia, Ohio; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. A brother and two sisters preceded her in death.

Mrs. Houser was a 50-year member of the Garrett Order of Eastern Star, the Garrett United Methodist Church and the Mary-Martha Circle.

November 20, 1984

Marguerette Wert dies at age 90

Marguerette L. Wert, 90, died at 12:47 a.m. Tuesday at Miller's Merry Manor, where she had resided since Sept. 23, 1981.

A lifetime resident of the area, Mrs. Wert lived at 509 South Walsh street before moving to Miller's. She was born Jan. 28, 1894 in Butler Township, the daughter of Amos and Nancy (Hunter) Fitch. Her husband, Harry Wert, preceded her in death in August, 1956.

Mrs. Wert was a housewife and had also taught kindergarten in South Bend. She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, a 50 year member of the Garrett Order of Eastern Star, past treasurer of Tri Kappa Sorority and a member of the Mary-Martha Circle.

Mrs. Wert is survived by nieces and nephews. A brother and two sisters are deceased.

Funeral services will be held at McKee-Miles Funeral Home at 1:30 p.m. Friday with Pastor Ronald Bowman officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Chapel Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. today, with an Eastern Star service set for 8 p.m.

Preferred memorials are requested to the church.

Mathias Fitch Family

Carolyn Kell Davis wrote of a visit from Eunice Fitch (Widow of Merlin Fitch) of Wenatchee, Washington in August. Eunice visited her son Robert in Boston, Mass. and then flew to Fort Wayne for visit with other family relatives. Eunice states that this was the first visit in 33 years when she and Merlin visited in 1951. Apparently Eunice has been able to travel spending August of 1983 in England. In 1984 she went with a tour group visiting New Zealand, Australia and Fiji Islands, giving very interesting accounts of her travels. She did regret that her travels did not coincide with attending the reunion.

Harvey Fitch Family

Anne McComb Kelham wrote showing interest in the Family History Book. Was wondering if there were any available. I responded that there had been some requests a few years ago but the supply was exhausted.

Sarah F. Stratton Family

The accompanying clipping gives details of the death of Helen Stratton Bowlby at Riverview Health Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana Both Claude and Helen had been patients at the facility for some time. As was previously reported Claude died in 1983.

Amos Fitch Family

On the following page are two notices all will be sorry to learn. It really is most uncanny for two who were so close to one another in life the same should follow in death. There was a double funeral which several of the cousins who lived near attended. The day was a beautiful one filled with sunshine representative of the lives of the two who went together to join the ranks of the blessed in Heaven.

This seems to be the last of the news to report this year. We do hope you can be with us some time either in person or by letter. We do appreciate hearing of yourselves, your families and interests. Thank you each one for your interest.

With best wishes to all,

Sister M. Alma Louise C.S.C.

Sister M. Alma Louise. CSC

Your Secretary and Editor.

May 1985

Dear Fitch Cousins,

Following our January 1985 NEWSLETTER events have necessitated issuing an announcement of change of location of our Reunion on June 23. Robert and Evelyn Gloyd have extended an invitation to share their home rather than Robinson Chapel. Details will be explained following.

Fitelia Fitch Gloyd Family:

Two events which we are sorry to report: (1) the sudden illness of our Treasurer, Russell Pusey , husband of Iolene Gloyd Pusey. Russell experienced a cerebral accident the morning of April 19. He complained of a headache and dizziness early that morning and was taken immediately to Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne, IN. where emergency surgery was performed. Physical Therapy treatments for residual paralysis of the left arm and leg were instituted soon after the post-operative recovery. A letter from Iolene as of May 16 relates good progress in Rehabilitation Care that will continue for at least another month of hospitalization. I am sure Iolene and Russell would appreciate expressions of any thoughtfulness. The room number is not available but could be sent to their home 2905 Union Chapel Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

(2) We have received word of the death of Eunice Moudy, wife of Rawles Moudy of Scottsdale, Arizona on April 17. No other details are available. A card of sympathy was sent to Rawles.

Several letters have arrived since the last Reunion and Newsletter:

Francelia Fitch Fair Family:

From Sara Sleeper who wrote of a Family Get-To-Gether at Christmas in Kansas. There were 25 members who shared an evening- Chris and Glenna Fair and family (Chris and Glenna celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently). Nina Fair Wall and her family were also present.

Sara also wrote of a family get-to-gether in Williamsburg, Virginia at Thanksgiving time. Elizabeth Bressler Roberts, daughter Kay and her husband drove from Richmond, Virginia to spend a day's visit and also drove to Yorktown and Jamestown for a tour of Virginia.

Elizabeth is still enjoying Virginia. A personal card at Easter was indeed a joyful expression. Thank you Sara and Elizabeth for your letters.

Jane Fitch Beers Family:

From Lucille Ozanne Cassell in February 1985:

"Thank you for your "Newsy Fitch Cousins" letter. I had hoped my husband and I could attended the 1984 reunion- he has never attended one. We decided to move from Pittsburgh, Pa, where we had lived for 17 years. Our family is spread from coast to coast so we settled on Ann Arbor, MI, about 15 miles from our daughter in Chelsea, MI. So we moved October 1. We may not make it to the 1985 reunion as our children have planned a 50th Wedding Anniversary for us at my brother's cottage at Torch Lake, Michigan from June 23 to July 2. It will be the first time we have all been together in 12 years."

PS Thank you for your letter. Have a Happy Anniversary. The new address is:

M/M Charles Cassell- 1105 Belmar Place, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

From Sarah Stratton Family:

In the last NEWSLETTER mention was made regarding available History Books. Robert Stratton Nobles responded and communications were exchanged with the party requesting.

Thank You Robert, I am sure your response was greatly appreciated. It is from a family whom we would like to promote more interest in preserving our family history.

Perry Fitch Family:

We received news of illness of Ralph Fitch who has undergone chemotherapy for a malignancy during this past year. We understand he was able to travel to Sarasota, Florida for the winter and is feeling quite well. Last August his home was struck by lightning but do not know the extent of damage.

From the Harvey Fitch Family;

My sister Etta Philomena Fitch has changed her residence from the farm to city. Having recently sold the farm she has accepted a home care position for a senior citizen. Her new address is; 908 N. Van Buren Street- Auburn, IN 46706.

I had no idea so much news was available. Thank all of you for your letters and am happy to share the news with you. So keep up the communications- joyful or otherwise- that is what will keep us all together. We hope some of you can be with us on June 23.

Directions to home of Robert and Evelyn Gloyd: If coming I-69 take Dupont Road exit- then West to the first cross road- then right (North) and continue past the Union Chapel Road to the sixth mail box. Turn right back a long lane.

With best wishes,

C.L.C. M. Alma Louise C.L.C.

June 1986

Dear Cousins,

Nearly one year has passed since the Fitch cousins met on June 23, 1985 at the home of Robert and Evelyn Gloyd. There were twenty-six cousins who gathered to exchange greetings. While it was nearly the same group from year to year, a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. During the progress of the business transaction , Bill Fitch of the Harvey Fitch Family from California who was visiting his mother came for a visit with the group.

Matters of business concerned the inability of Russell Pusey, our treasurer, to serve in this capacity due to his recent illness. However, he is responding quite well to the rehabilitation therapy . He was able to attend and submit the final treasurer report. A suggestion had been offered by the Bank to have a least one or two members available to transact business in the event of the treasurer becoming unable to do so. David Davis of the Matthias Fitch Family agreed to serve as Treasurer of the Fitch Fund and he was given the custody of the finances. Two other members submitted their signatures including myself authorizing any financial matter in the event of the treasurer being unable . The bank balance as of 12-30- 1985 was 219.71. A motion was made and carried to reimburse Robert and Evelyn Gloyd the amount of $ 25.00 for their hospitality.

No discussion was held regarding a meeting for the following year. While we would like to carry on the tradition it does seem to work hardship on the few who attend and for those who offer hospitality. Likewise, those who do attend are for the most part easily reached by telephone as occasion arises. This might be an answer in the event any might be coming to the Fort Wayne area for a visit when a family get-to-gether might be arranged.

Personally, I feel the NEWSLETTER media is the best method of keeping in touch. If there is a possibility to motivate the younger generation group to become interested in their family heritage a program should be promoted. During the past year on two occasions there have been assignments given students to investigate some local history project; the other was a family history assignment; through some information offered from our office, the student received commendation for tracing their lineage through several generations. So let us think this over and see what can be done.

As for family news there has been correspondence at Christmas and through the year from cousins who relate they have been keeping busy with their families and in touch with one another from time to time.

Russell and Iolene Gloyd Pusey are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 8 with an Open House at the Robinson Chapel Church on the Tonkel and Union Chapel Roads. I am sure this might be an opportune time to share our congratulations to them.

Two deaths in the Fitch Family have occurred during the year .

Ralph Fitch of the Perry Fitch Family on December 28. 1985.

Russell Kelham husband of Ann McComb Kelham of the Harvey Fitch Family in February.

Ralph David Fitch, 71, died Saturday in Fairfield Healthcare Center.

A lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, Mr. Fitch retired in 1979 as assistant sportswear manager with Patterson-Fletcher Co. He was past president of the board of directors of the Fort Wayne Ballet and also was a costume designer for the ballet.

Surviving are two nephews, Kenneth F. Smith of Garrett and Steven D. More of Ossian.

Services are 1 p.m. Tuesday, and calling is from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. today in D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are gifts to the Fort Wayne Ballet scholarship fund.

LAOTTO — **Russell E. Kelham, 74,** died Thursday at his home. He was a retiree of International Harvester and former Fourth District Democratic chairman.

Surviving are his wife, Ann; two sons; four daughters; a brother; and 16 grandchildren.

Services are 2 p.m. Sunday in Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, where calling begins 2 p.m. Saturday. Burial will be in Cedar Chapel Cemetery, Garrett.

Preferred memorials are gifts to DeKalb County Hospice of Hope or Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

For myself I am sorry to be late in reporting on the last years reunion. This has been a most hectic year and the summer promises no relief due to re-arrangement of offices- so we do not know from day to day where we will be located and what space allocated to us. Likewise our Print Shop have had mammoth jobs that I did not have the spirit to add another job until now.

Let me hear from you from time to time and let us keep in touch as best we can.

Sincerely,

Your Secretary and Editor,

Sister M. Asma Louise C.S.C

February 25, 1986

Dear Betty Fitch

First of all in the way of introduction, my name is Bette Jane Fitch Lyon.
Coincidence, it seems.
In June 1977, my mother, Mrs. Robert Fitch, then of Seattle, received a letter from you re-the Fitch Family. As my father, Robert Fitch, passed away in 1954 at the age of 5[illegible] she was no longer interested in the Fitch family, so passed the letter on to me. At that time it was not of great signifigance for me, but for some reason I kept the letter. As one becomes older it seems family ties, heritage and nostalgia become more important in some of our lives. Such has become the case for me.

A newsletter and 5-year report were mentioned in your letter re-the Fitch Family History, is this still available? Anything you could pass on to me would be most appreciated, As I have nothing. For your information and perhaps to help you, my Father's name was Robert Fitch
his Father Schuyler Fitch
who was married to Leah

immigrating from Fort Wayne, Indiana, probably in the early or middle 1900's to Seattle, WA. Family pictures were all destroyed in a fire, so I have nothing of the days gone by.
Would very much like to pursuemy Fitch heritage, not only for myself but for my daughter.
Any help you can provide will be most appreciated.
If you are no longer involved in the Reunion function, perhaps you could put me in touch with those who are.
Looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible-as I am now 61 and time is passing.

Sincerely, Bette J. Fitch Lyon

P.S. You mentioned a Fitch Family History, which was compiled in 1972, is that still available?

Bette Jane Fitch Lyon
2937 Banner Rd. S.E.
Port Orchard, WA. 98366
(206) 871-4923

Fitch Family Reunion
1992

At the home of
Sharon + Alex Jokay



CARONN NELL DAVIS SANDRA CASSELL Peterson



SHARON DAVIS JOKAU - Hostess



Lucille Exanne Cassell



Sarah Elizabeth Kell LeBolt and
Eula May Kell



Mary Ellen Kell Arnold



Eula May Kell and Esther Fitch



Frederick Key
Bill Cassel
Sister (Mary Louise Fitch)



Sister
&
her sister
Philomena



John ~~Edward~~ Evan Fitch
and
wife Sally



Brother and sisters

At four still living

JAKE HALL, CAROLYN DAVIS, Elizabeth DeBolt, Mary Ellen Arnold



Lucille Cassell and Bill Cassell

Mary Ellen, Esther & Jake



Sister Mary Louise "Harvy"



Mary Ellen Arnold "Mathias"



Jake Kell "Mathias"



Joan Dove "Amos"



Ann Lyons
"Mathias"

Bill Cassell
"Jennie"



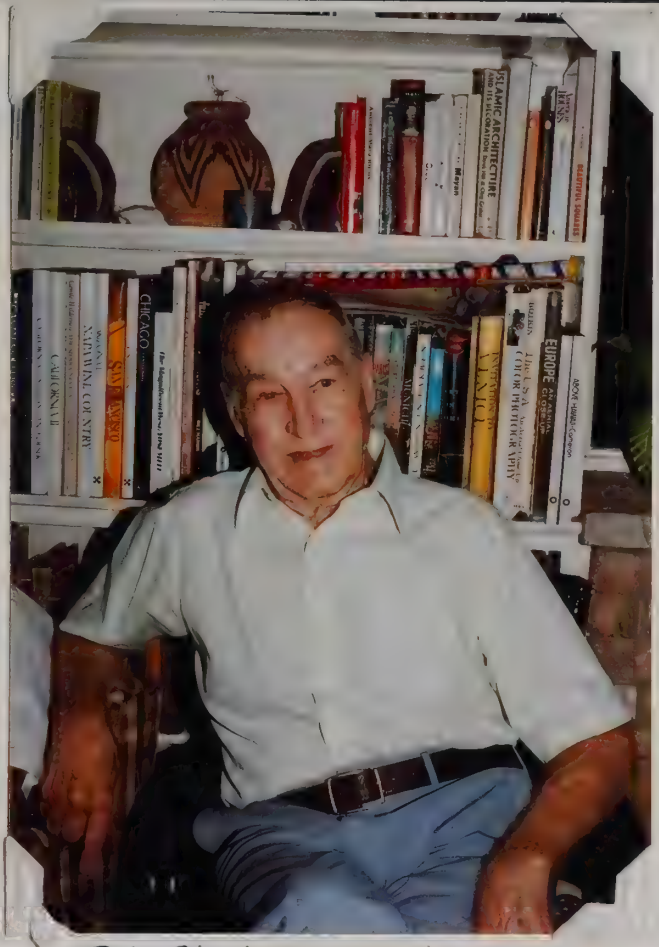
Bill Cassell
"Jennie"



Russell & Ann Lyons



Ann Kelham "Harvey"



Bob Gloyd "Fitelia"



Lucille Cassell "Jennie"

Phyllis Fitch "Harvey"



Richard Fitch "Harvey"



Betty Fitch "Mathias"



Eula May Kell "Mathias"





"Mathias"



Sharon Davis
Maureen Davis Sharon Jokay (Mathias)



Kell
"Mathias"



Amanda, Cailline Davis
Natalie standing next to
Uncle Kevan Davis

Karl + Maureen's girls "Mathias"



Bill Cassell and his wife,
painted by a friend



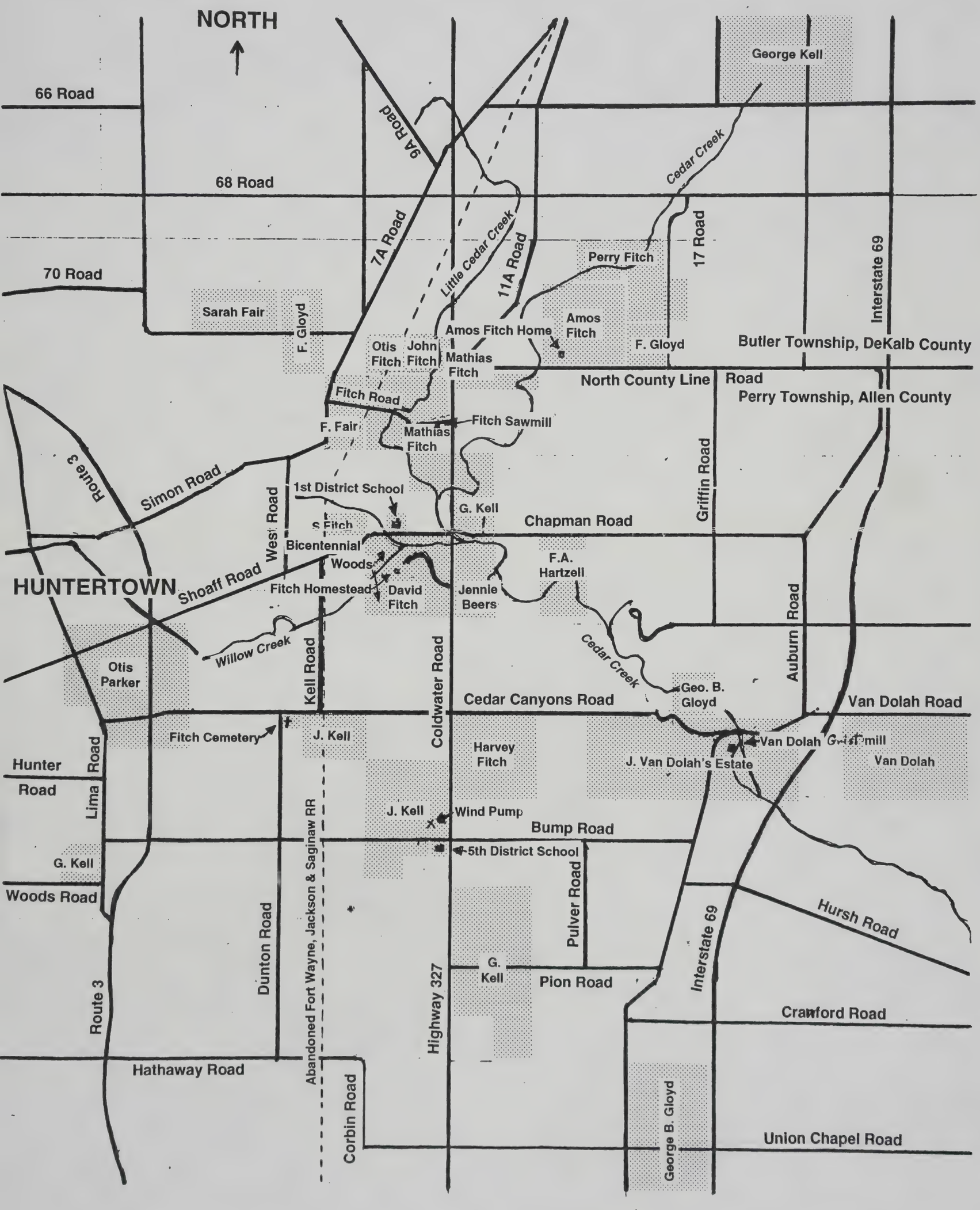
Future heirloom
A chair with the Fitch crest
he made for his son.

Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch Family Map

Shaded areas represent land in Allen and DeKalb Counties that was owned by the Fitch family or its relatives around 1880.

The locations of the mills, schools, houses, etc. are approximate.

As a indication of size, the Fitch Homestead quadrant is 160 acres.



NATHANIEL & SARAH DELONG FITCH
REUNION NEWSLETTER

FALL 1992

1992 FITCH REUNION

On July 26, 1992, about 60 Fitch relatives gathered at Sharon and Alex Jokay's home in Leo, Indiana, for the first Fitch Reunion since 1986.

In addition to catching up on family news, meeting some new cousins and enjoying a fine meal, those present decided to publish a newsletter. As the physical and generational distances increased from our common Indiana forebearers, fewer kin attended the annual reunions; and it was thought that a newsletter might bridge those distances and, in some manner, keep our family in touch with its Indiana history and with each other.

Perhaps, after learning more about Nathaniel and Sarah's family, there will be some renewed interest in having another reunion, when the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, etc. generations from across the country can gather in Indiana, reach back 150 years and come to know more about their roots and their relatives.

FITCH FAMILY STORIES: Why should we care?

All of us have Fitch roots that go down through colonial New England and 15th century England. Between those early Fitches and us is a common branch that grew in Allen County, Indiana: Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch. We are all related through them.

Most people reach a point in their lives when they are curious about their roots. Perhaps intuitively we know that who we have become is somehow related to the generations that preceded us.

In most cases a serious curiosity doesn't develop until late adulthood: Initially, almost all of us are more concerned about developing ourselves and establishing our own careers and families.

Often it is the death of a parent or grandparent or the questions of a child that spark our interest in our family's past. By then, unfortunately, it may be too late to gather the stories that connect us to distant prior generations, and our memories of our elders' casual reminiscences may be too hazy to rely on.

Fortunately for us, Nathaniel and Sarah's descendents gathered for almost annual reunions from about 1884 to 1986, where some of our kin wrote down the recollections of Nathaniel and Sarah's children. The bulk of these notes, prepared in 1927 and 1933, were only recently discovered and, when combined with other stories that were shared at reunions, provide us with a marvelous view of our Indiana Fitch past.

Sharing these often very personal recollections with our extended Fitch family, via this newsletter, is our first goal.

The very fact that these stories survived leads us to believe that other information about Nathaniel and Sarah's family may exist elsewhere in our extended family; so our second goal is to search out this material and share it with our kin, via subsequent newsletters.

Our third goal is to research the Fitch reunions and to develop stories about them. Family reunions that span almost a century are rare indeed. We have the official records and minutes but are missing personal recollections and photos.

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WHAT CAN EACH OF YOU DO?

To achieve our goals, we will need your help:

Names and Addresses: Some of our address lists are woefully out-of-date. We need mailing information on ALL adult descendents, as well as their link to Nathaniel and Sarah (i.e. which of their children does he or she descend from). NOTE: Marriage or adoption makes you part of our Fitch family.

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Other possessions are probably in the hands of various relatives, but we don't know who has what. (For instance, I recently learned that my mother has three woolen blankets that were woven at the homestead from Fitch sheep.) We need descriptions, locations and, ideally, photographs. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the Civil War flag that was sewn by Nathaniel's daughters and displayed at reunions?

Documents and Maps: There may be documents that will add to our understanding of Nathaniel and Sarah (wills, letters, maps, etc.). As well as old maps, we need a current map with an overlay of Fitch-related locations (their homestead, their children's homes, the Perry Seminary, the mills...the places that are mentioned in their stories.) We need someone in Indiana who is familiar with these locations to help on this one. Copies of documents can be sent to me; or, if you send original documents, I will photograph them and return them.

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Bill Cassell, Newsletter Editor 617-862-6172
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(A great, great grandson through Jennie Fitch Beers, Margarita Beers Ozanne and Lucille Ozanne Cassell)

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NATHANIEL AND SARAH'S CHILDREN

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	Born	Died
Nathaniel Fitch, Jr.	7/ 9/06	1 /1/77
Sarah Elizabeth DeLong	5/29/18	9/ 2/08
Children:		
Perry	1/ 6/42	4/14/00
Mathias (Sci)	1/16/43	12/10/23
Mary Jane (Jennie)	10/15/44	3/17/25
Charles	3/29/46	8/21/25
Nancy	3/16/48	9/ 1/48
Amos (Ame)	6/11/49	11/ 9/35
Fitelia (Fi)	4/10/51	1/ 8/35
Francelia (Frank)	4/10/51	12/29/37
Harvey (Harve)	7/15/53	9/13/48
Sarah Elizabeth (Sade)	3/29/55	8/ 4/58
Allen	2/21/57	12/19/52
Ida Alice	10/25/58	12/14/45
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/61	8/28/49
John Edward	2/14/64	5/19/70
David Nathaniel	2/13/65	4/ 4 50

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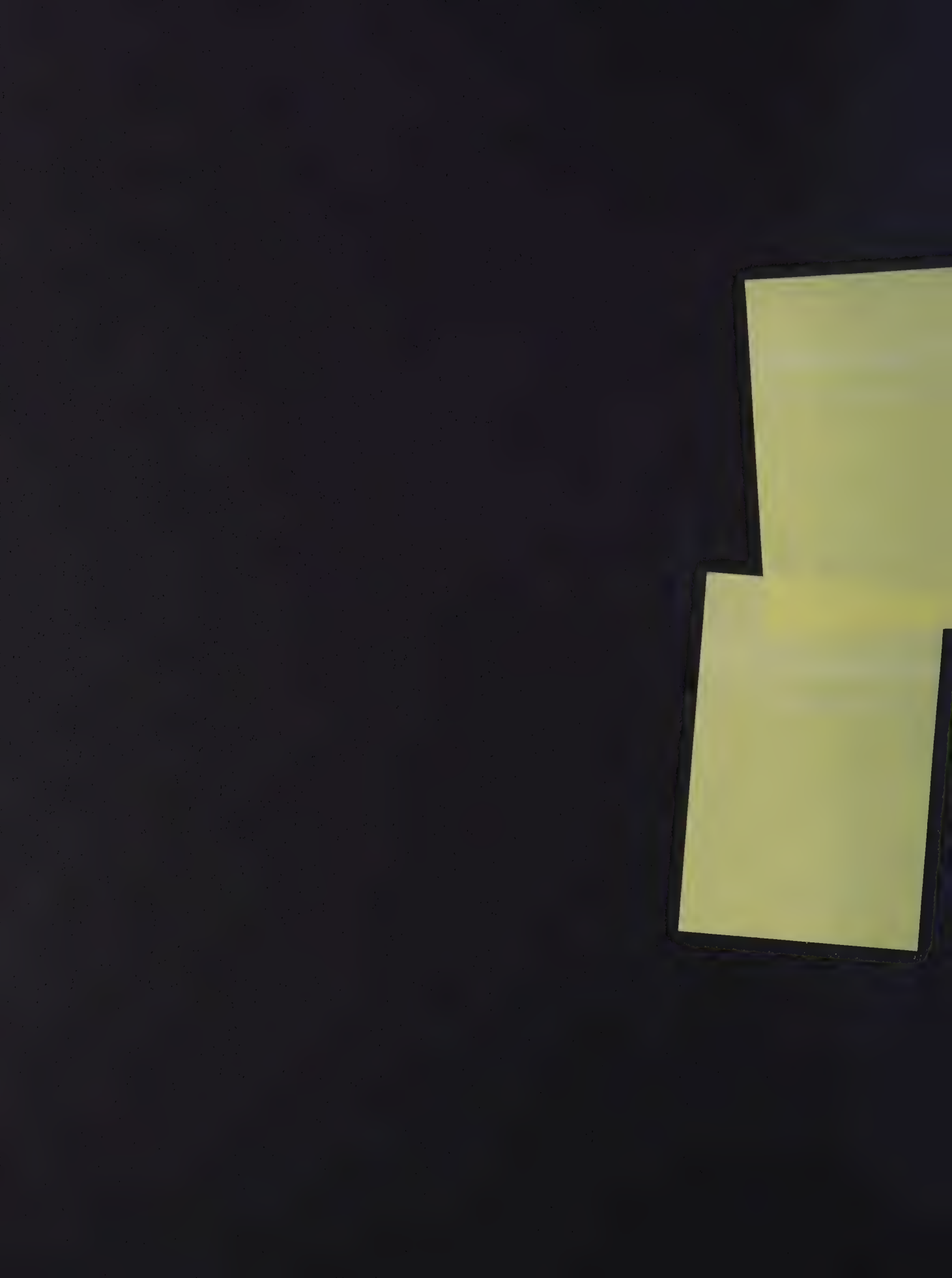
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Mathias (Sci)	1/16/43	12/10/23
Mary Jane (Jennie)	10/15/44	3/17/25
Charles	3/29/46	8/21/25
Nancy	3/16/48	9/ 1/48
Amos (Ame)	6/11/49	11/ 9/35
Fitelia (Fi)	4/10/51	1/ 8/35
Francelia (Frank)	4/10/51	12/29/37
Harvey (Harve)	7/15/53	9/13/48
Sarah Elizabeth (Sade)	3/29/55	8/ 4/58
Allen	2/21/57	12/19/52
Ida Alice	10/25/58	12/14/45
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/61	8/28/49
John Edward	2/14/64	5/19/70
David Nathaniel	2/13/65	4/ 4 50

Home? Did he blacksmith on the canal after they were married?

John died

Jeremiah died.

Faith in Ind city 1832 — was in Wabash ~~[illegible]~~ in 1835



(The following details of Fitch family life were compiled from many sources. Notes and materials gathered by Alice Beers Kephart, Kenneth Beers and Margarita Beers Ozanne were especially helpful. The intent is to supplement, not repeat, the material in "Fitch Family History with Lineage Lines of Nathaniel and Sarah Delong Fitch.")

Nathaniel was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith's and gunsmith's trades to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home in about six months with the knowledge of the trades and is said to have run away from his apprenticeship. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as Nathaniel was called, said that there wasn't enough work for the two, so he sold out to Giles.

Apparently, Nathaniel wanted his father to give him a spring for making scythes. His father refused, and Nathaniel left home and went west with $.15 in his pocket, a rifle, a bag of salt, a hatchet and whatever else he had tied in a bandana handkerchief. He wasn't heard from for 14 years. Nathaniel wore a black handkerchief around his neck for years.

In Wabash, Indiana, Nathaniel set up his blacksmith shop and made locks, guns, traps, hatchets, plowshares, axes and other needed hardware. He was an expert at tempering steel, and customers would come from Michigan and all around. He made all the ironwork for the canal locks between Wabash and Fort Wayne (ultimately the canal ran to Toledo and the Great Lakes), moving his shop along with the advance of the canal.

When Nathaniel would come home to visit during this canal blacksmithing, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

A permanent camp of Indians was nearby when he first set up his shop. They could be seen through the woods and would come begging Nathaniel to mend their traps and guns. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereupon the Indian came at Nathaniel with a knife. Nathaniel was by the forge, working on a sharp shovel, and was ready to cut the Indian's head off. Another Indian, the chief named Chopine (Little Turtle) took the first Indian away, saying, "bad Indian," which referred to his drunken state.

A year or two after coming to Indiana, Nathaniel went back to Pennsylvania for a girl. She refused to come west. "Too wild." Two of his brothers, John and Seymour ("pretty boys") did come out but got wet, took cold and died.

Sarah Fitch was a DeLong, born near Dayton, Miami County, Ohio. Sometime thereafter she lived in Pennsylvania. Her father was from Germany and was unkind to her. He was educated but did not speak English. Her mother was a Statler. Sarah was never educated due to the German attitude toward girls and could neither read nor write. Later in her life she learned to read and to write a little, but there were simply no opportunities for formal schooling.

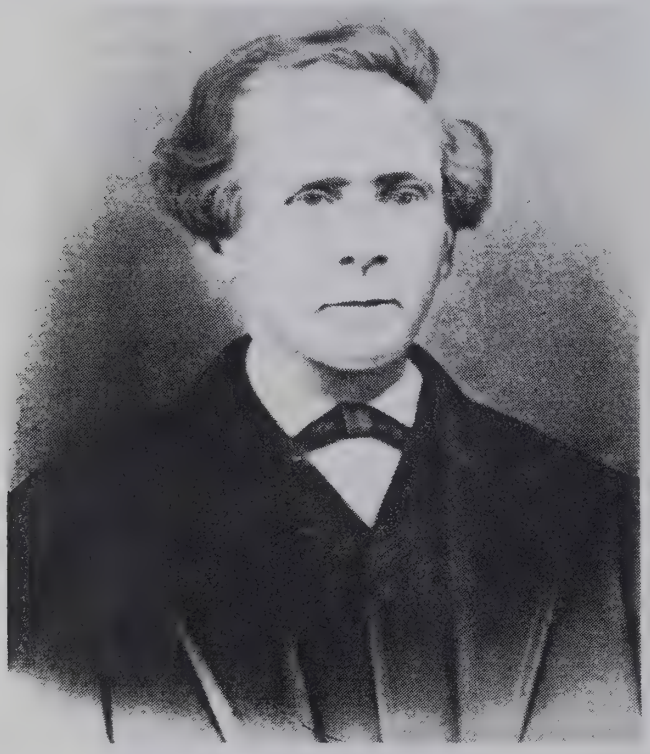
Sarah spent 45 minutes every day for three months making a rude dam across a large stream. One day a raft of a thousand logs came down the stream and destroyed the dam. She came back through the woods shouting.

A neighbor family (Cumstock) was planning to go west by wagon. Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and left with the Cumstocks. She went with them to her sister's, Mrs. Christina Fair, in Dekalb County. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn where she worked in a tavern. Next she went to the Vandolers. She cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes for $.50 a week.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina replied that her sister wasn't married and called her to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Nathaniel and Sarah were married in June 1840. She wore a changeable silk dress, which she remembered fondly. On the day after her wedding she walked to their 20 acres and picked a bucket of strawberries. She and Nathaniel began housekeeping in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring near Huntertown, Indiana. They lived there until 1854 or 1855 when they moved to a larger frame house where Sarah Elizabeth was born. The log house was torn down in 1855.

Nathaniel was six feet tall in his stocking feet. His arms and legs were scarred where horses had jerked before the nails had been turned in shoeing. He wore homemade clothes but on one occasion went to Fort Wayne to buy a suit. The store owner fitted him and said, "That suit just fits you," whereupon Nathaniel bent over and split the coat. "What are you made of," the owner asked. Nathaniel then lifted a two bushel sack of wheat and put it in the wagon.



Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., age 64 (c. 1870)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man at the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone, but he doesn't look like he's got $10 to his name." The owner looked and seeing that it was Nathaniel said, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him four or five if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

On another occasion, when the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When they got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

On that trip to Iowa he wore a vest that Sarah had made, with gold coins sewed into the lining in many places. He never took it off during the entire trip, except when he needed money.

There were two forges. The children would gather to watch the sparks fly, and Nathaniel, wearing his leather apron, would drive them off for their safety. He would take the boys to the shop but never the girls.

Nathaniel was known as a prodigious walker, perhaps because he didn't like horses. He held a mortgage on some property some distance away. When he heard that the man was going to leave, he said, "I guess I'll go over there. Maybe I'll be gone over night." After breakfast he departed and arrived by nightfall, having walked all day.

On another occasion, Harvey and Amos started to Fort Wayne with two loads of wheat, leaving Nathaniel at home. When they arrived in Fort Wayne, Nathaniel was there talking with friends.

Nathaniel liked to challenge the boys to a race to town. He would start off on foot, and the boys would take horses, but he would be waiting in town when they arrived.

The Fitches were Democrats. Nathaniel felt that Negroes were better off with their masters, yet opposed slavery. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War, Nathaniel went to Kelloggsville and bought him off with greenbacks. When the boys were excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe (or cradle) and get back to the field."

Nathaniel wrote into one of his books the following inscription: "Don't steal this for fear of life, For don't you see the butcher knife."

Nathaniel didn't like horses and never drove them. He never owned a buggy until Sarah received some money from Ohio. Then he bought a three seated spring wagon. But he liked cats and often played with one that he had at the mill. Sarah always had her own riding horse.

When men were building a new house, one dove off a rafter to prevent Amos from injuring the twins (Fitelia and Francelia) with a hatchet.

There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking.

Perry Center Seminary was founded in 1856 by Nathaniel, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart to provide education for the community's children. There was no toilet or well. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation, free. The seminary was a frame building of which the German Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I'd do better."

There were two large rooms for classes on the first floor, and six or seven rooms on the second floor. The teacher lived at the seminary, and some boys stayed there during the week in the upstairs rooms. Others came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work for Sarah in return for board.

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked the questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their own children were quizzed.

The teacher, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Nathaniel's third child, Mary Jane, known as Jennie, took to this study like a duck to water and she prepared for college. During her time at the Academy she and the other girls made a Union flag, which has been displayed at Fitch reunions ever since.

Jennie attended and graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870. Nathaniel wanted Jennie to come back home to teach after graduation. She did return the summer after graduation to teach in the white schoolhouse across the creek but then taught in Fort Wayne, in Utica, New York and in Wabash, where she married Levi Beers, a teacher. During that summer the parents paid by subscription for teaching their children.

Nathaniel was quite disappointed that Jennie left. Her sister, Sarah, their tenth child, says that Jennie was "the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.



The flag made by Jennie Fitch and her sisters at the start of the Civil War. It was shown at each Fitch Reunion.



Jennie Fitch's college graduation dress, worn by Lucille Ozanne in 1930 in front of the Ozanne home in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"Jennie had it plenty hard after her family came, and she had to learn what we did at home. I'm not blaming her. It was Father that spoiled her."

During the early years of the Civil War, sometimes 150 students attended the seminary. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss the class and all would go out to watch 10 or 12 wagons of soldiers go by. The seminary closed when its teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army. The deed wasn't recorded, and when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn.

A non-graded district school provided education to the younger Fitches. Fitelia and Francelia left school at 10 years. To reach the school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands out.

In the morning Nathaniel would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would stand in the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember cold mornings, just daylight. When the children came home from school, mush, which had cooked for several hours, was on. Later, when Nathaniel was sick and didn't go out, he would stir it. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

On summer days the girls would go barefoot to school and carry old dresses that they would hide in the willows by the creek. At noon they would change into their old dresses and go swimming. Jennie would come and throw stones just for fun, to make them think it was the boys.

On the last day of school there was always an exhibition. Ida was to speak "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn and not do anything. After she went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her and teach her "Over the Hill." On the last day Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. Mrs. Stover, the preacher and Miller's wife, cried. Everyone cried.

Tables would be carried out under the big oaks for lunch and food put on the table. The children ate first, waited on by their mothers. On another big oak tree up a little ways, Mr. Stone would bring a big rope from the mill and put up a swing. Mrs. Noonan would come and bring a pillow case to put anything left over to take home.

Behind an early portrait of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and a poem in her handwriting: "Jennie Fitch is my name, And single is my station. And happy may the gentlemen be, When he makes the alteration."

Ida always had a strip of bed ticking sewed in her skirt bands because she played so rough and came home with her clothes torn. Skirts were very full with a couple of petticoats. She was very rowdy as a girl, followed by Allen, who was impetuous and impulsive. It became a family habit to train her, and this made her more stormy.

Emma would sit in a little rocker, rocking and wailing. She was always sickly as a child.

The children never had any typhoid, just children's diseases. No broken bones, except John, who went into the barn where the horses were loose and was kicked.

Nancy, Sarah's fifth child, took summer complaint (cholera infantum) and died. Sarah felt that "If I hadn't given up there, I'd have saved Nancy."

During the cholera plague that swept the community one year, Sarah and Nathaniel went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek. She went to nurse, and he went to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families.

Sarah was also an active midwife, who assisted in many births in the county.

Sarah made cheese and barrels of pickles for sale (soaking and stemming the pickles was extra). In the kitchen loft, an attic over the porch, dried apples, pumpkins and grapes hung in cotton sacks from the rafters.

Sarah cooked for years before a fireplace and grated corn to make meal before the mill was built. Nathaniel later got her a stove with 3 lids and a big oven on top. She baked salt-rising bread in a round Dutch oven or later in the stove.

Their ninth child, Harvey, remembers, "We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it ... meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet, it was usually maple syrup or sorghum molasses." There were deer, wild turkeys and peacocks in the woods. If successful at hunting, the boys would bring home squirrels.

The loom upon which their woolens were woven was in the room next to the kitchen. Shortly after its installation, there was consternation in the kitchen as breads and cakes would fall during baking. It was discovered that the thump of the loom was the cause.

There were always 5 or 6 hired hands eating along with the family, making meals for 20 a common occurrence. One winter 20 students ate there and went to the seminary. The hired hands ate first, then the children, who sat on the stairs and waited their turn at the table.

The Fitches had a cane mill to produce sorghum molasses (from millet), of which there were up to five barrels stored in the cellar at any one time. One pushed the cane in, and one prodded the horse. The molasses came out green and had to be boiled and skimmed out of doors under shelter.

To wash clothes, Sarah went down a steep hill to the creek, beside which she had a big iron kettle. She would dip water from the creek and boil the clothes, using soft soap. After rinsing in another tub, the clothes were hung near the creek if there were no cattle loose. Some of the better clothing was taken up the hill and hung by the house.

Ida was in Wabash when Kenneth Fitch Beers was born (1876). A stovepipe above the nurse who was holding Kenneth fell. Ida leaped up and caught it before it hit him.

When the men at Amos' were out of meat, Nathaniel would take his gun into the woods and shoot and dress a deer and, once in awhile, a bear. Then Sarah and the boys would hitch up the team of oxen, go through the woods and pick up the deer.

Ida would go off to the woods to read. When a horse needed to be hitched, she'd be called.



Sarah Delong Fitch, age 52. (c. 1870)

The children would get up early and chase down to the plum thicket where there were five wild plum trees. They would pick up those on the ground before the hogs got them. There were also wild grapes and gooseberries, which were put in a coarse sack and rubbed with mittened hands to get the prickers off.

For sweets there was taffy, which the children would pull, and popcorn with molasses on it. Sweet corn was parched in a skillet with butter on it.

Nathaniel hated to see girls with petticoats showing. If there was a hole in a dress, he would

say, "Tut, tut, tut. My grandmother never went that way." If the children were cutting up at the table, he just raised his finger at them or rapped on the table. The children subsided at once. He never raised his voice to them.

If a group of children were tee-heeing in the corner at the steps, without a word Nathaniel would take one by the hand and give a gentle shove with his foot to one corner, another to another corner, etc. to break up the party.

Sarah was also a no-nonsense grandmother. One of her grandchildren would beat his head on the floor and watch his mother for a reaction. When he visited Sarah, he got water in the face for his behavior.

While Sarah was critical with her family, she had a mischievous side, too. One time she invited two granddaughters to go shopping with her in Fort Wayne. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home. Sarah said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, she took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg, put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder. She then said, "Let's hear what the girls have to say about this!"



Dr. David Fitch and Harvey Fitch, brothers of Jennie. 1937. (L to R)

Bruno, a Newfoundland and one of the family dogs, followed Dave to Fort Wayne, where Dave attended school. Ida saw Bruno looking for Dave on campus. Bruno would wait for Dave on the hill every Friday. Bruno would also steal taffy from the girls and on one occasion lapped up apple butter that Sarah had put outdoors to cool.

Bruno would go with Dave when he went hunting squirrels, but Bruno's preference was hunting woodchucks, where he would go a block on his belly to head off a woodchuck from his hole. He apparently hated men with packs, and, when a peddler came to the house. Bruno's hackles were up even before he saw the peddler.

Boots were made periodically by a cobbler who would stand each person against a wall, mark the length of his foot on the floor and then measure the distance with a stick. Shoes were carried coming and going to Sunday school. Nathaniel said that if you got them wet, you had to wear them until they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

Much of their clothing was woolen, made from their own sheep. "Ida Fitch's got the itch, and all the children know it. If she don't oint at every joint." Nathaniel would carry his white shirt when going somewhere "dressed up." Fitelia made his shirts with collars attached and turned down. No ties.

Before Sarah had a loom, there were no night clothes. The girls took off their drawers and slept in chemises ... low necks, short sleeves. Cold! Later Hannah Garrison took 2 or 3 colors of yarn and wove night clothes. The boys' plaid shirt material was made of 4 threads of blue and 4 threads of white. Girl's panties were also made, although later some were made of store-bought material.

When Perry, their first child, married Sarah Gloyd in 1864, there was a big two day wedding, starting on Sunday. The children remember how "unfair" it was. They had to be at school on Monday, across the creek, where they could watch the Fitches and Gloyds celebrating in Nathaniel's yard. Fitch children went to school all year.

Allen, their eleventh child, was born in February, 1857, but wasn't named until October, 1858, when Alice was born. Nathaniel finally said, "We'll call him Allen and the girl Alice."

When Sarah knew that Dave (their 15th child) was coming, she went outdoors, took hold of the clothesline and cried bitterly, "Can I go through that again?" She was 47 when Dave was born, 23 years after Perry's birth. Her first grandchild was born just 3 months after Dave's birth.

Her sister, Henrietta Delong Young, who was living in Ohio, sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons. Dave was

named after her husband.

Sheep were raised that produced a fine, mixed wool. Nathaniel washed the sheep in the creek, and the children would watch. In two years during the Civil War five wagons of wool were produced and sold to the government for script. At one time mutton was on the dinner table. Nathaniel asked, "Did you kill one of my sheep?" Upon learning that Sarah had, he got up and left the table.

Nathaniel owned and operated a wool-carding business, as well as a saw mill. The carding mill was powered by a 12 foot diameter overshot water wheel in the basement. The two carding cylinders were 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, made of leather with little wires put in every 3 inches. As the cylinders revolved near a table, they would pick up wool and make rolls. Ida would pick rolls out of the trough, catching it by the ends and giving it a little twist. It was then ready for spinning.

Shortly after the carding mill was built by Harry Fair in 1840, Nathaniel bought it. The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. Its dam was about 65 feet in length and 4 feet high on Little Cedar Creek, situated about a mile upstream from the mill. After trouble developed with the water supply, the mill was moved downstream, and the mill race was lengthened. The mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870.

The saw mill was powered by a 6 foot water turbine. It was initially an up and down saw that cut only as it went up. Later it was replaced with a circular saw. Logs (black walnut, oak, basswood, poplar) up to 5 feet in diameter were delivered to the mill, cut into 12 foot lengths and slabbed. Some workers hewed framing timbers 60 to 75 feet long by hand.

The saw mill was built in 1840 and quit business in 1908, having been operated by Nathaniel's second child, Mathias, after Nathaniel. The mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Mathias added a feed-grinder to the operation.

Nathaniel's death may have been hastened as a result of injuries received at Sci's farm. He was using cant hook on a log when the cant hook slipped. Logs came rolling down. Nathaniel thought that one was spent and put out his foot. He was struck, whirled around and thrown, face down, onto the ground. The logs passed over him, injuring his chest. His head had gone into a depression in the ground, or he might have been killed.

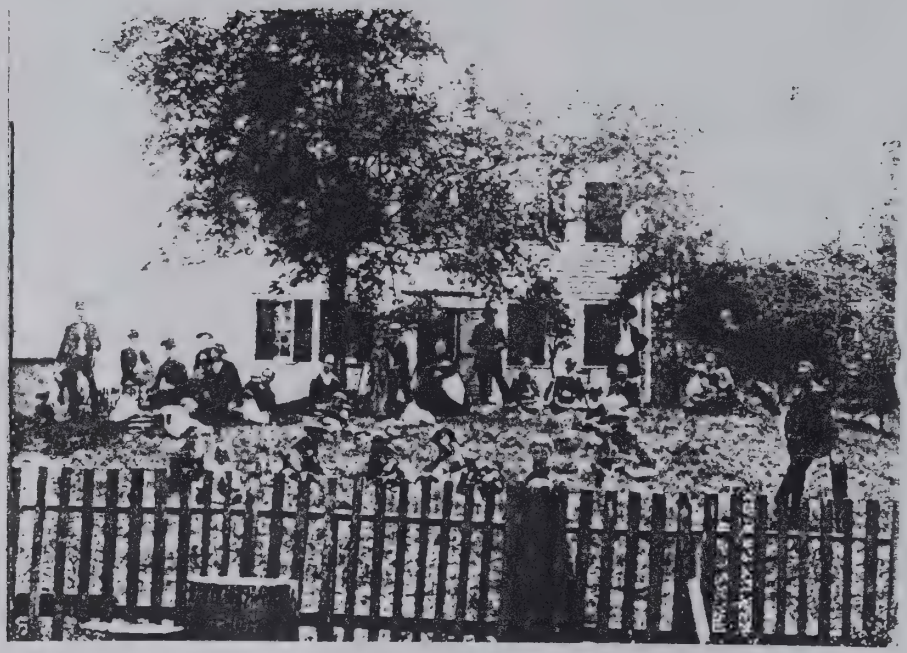
Fie said to Sarah, "Mother, something is wrong." They ran to see Sci coming with Nathaniel, walking slowly. "A log rolled over him." The next winter was severe, and he took pneumonia. The nearest doctor was Huntertown and "not much at that." Home remedies failed and Nathaniel died New Year's morning in 1877. Jennie came with Kenneth Beers, just 6 months old. It was very cold. Nathaniel was taken to the cemetery on a sled.

When he died, Nathaniel owned 2220 acres of land. It was said that he had two hobbies: Wheat and land. He was remembered as one who "never did a mean trick" in business and who raised a fine family.

According to Parker Fitch, grandson of Nathaniel, Sarah "just wore out" at 90 years old. She had a few sick spells, but every time the doctor arrived, she was OK. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.



(L to R, top to bottom)
Five of Jennie's brothers: David, Allen, Harvey, Amos and Charlie Fitch.



A Fitch reunion at the Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch homestead. Sarah Fitch is in the foreground. (From undated stereoptic card)



The Fitch homestead as it looks today.

ADDITIONAL STORIES
OF THE NATHANIEL AND SARAH FITCH FAMILY

Alice Beers Kephart, one of Jennie Fitch's daughters, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Fitch Reunions and at the 1933 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family." After attending the 1992 Fitch Reunion and finding so much interest in Nathaniel's family, I returned to Alice's notes and prepared this additional material.

Alice recorded 64 pages of Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister (and my grandmother), Margie Beers Ozanne, and my mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell, for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Carolyn Kell Davis's comments are noted in [ ] parentheses. Comments by Sister Mary Alma Louise are noted in { } parentheses.

Bill Cassell

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1934 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand. [My brother said the spring is no longer there. It provided an enormous flow of water. Something caused it to cave in.]

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which he bought from a travelling nurseryman for $1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect-free) apples and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper. [The names of the apples are familiar as we had the same kind on our farm bearing fruit in the 1920's.]

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerant basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked. [My mother told me that Sarah rode sidesaddle.]

Al had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby. [Ague was a malarial-type illness with high fever and chills. Ague weed, also known as boneset, was used to medicate.]

For medicines there was jimpson weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as boneset weed that grew in marshy places and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. [The name of a neighboring family who no longer live in the area.] Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooden chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Huntertown and exchange for brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen.)

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children up to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Sci's place was bought from Betsy Fair, Chris Fair's mother. Henry Fair left her to go west in 1849 and never returned...possibly killed. Nine children. Perry's place was bought from the Bakers.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for $112. The house was built in 1878.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "old stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board, with strings in the creases. The hinged side

was brought up, the strings were tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling for $1.00 a pound.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "no, I don't mind". On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundle {neighbors who lived to the south of Nathaniel. Three of the Rundles went to school at the District School on the Shoaff.} went to Auburn for his casket.

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for $2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received $4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathanial to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for $3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathanial or Sarah.

In the fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers from Spencer [I think Spencer refers to Nathaniel's brother from Pennsylvania who married a Sickler and came to Indiana. I'm not sure, but I think that he migrated farther west.] Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off.

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank. {Parker (my father), Roland and Burgess Fitch, and one other cousin whom I do not recall, arranged for dances on occasion. My father called many of the dances.}

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie." The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane."

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathanial said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in the Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Nathaniel and a neighbor were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." The neighbor laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. The neighbor stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan. [Horse stealing was rampant at that time. Nathaniel and my other grandfather, Jacob Kell, helped to organize a vigilante group (a sort of militia of local farmers) to stop the criminals, as there was no sheriff in the county. There is still some resentment about this activity among families living in area.]

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the left overs from school graduation in a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." [My mother knew the Noonan children. This is interesting as it shows sanitation was unheard of in those days.]

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1934.)

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the district school. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard to catch) and tore his coat tail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Not a native boy, Will would read "Thanatopsis" so well that the children would cry. [The Thortons and Hatches (see next paragraph) were well-known families at that time.]

The children had a three acre field to play in. They would run from school, across the road, to play king of the hill where two great oaks stood. It was a steep hill, with a creek below. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman."

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathanial liked to hum "Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that refers to the good old days of one's youth.

Memories of Margie Beers Ozanne, daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers
Recorded December 19, 1971

Nathaniel's estate of farmland and property was divided up by his sons. Jennie, whose husband was a preacher and not a farmer, was given woodland on a stream.

Sarah heard children cry out when the teacher at the country school walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who

were seated around the sides of the room. She objected to that behavior by the teacher.

Sarah bought a piano in 1871 for $650, which she received from her relatives in Ohio.

When Sarah was riding somewhere, she would let her grandsons sit behind her and slide off the rear of the horse when she departed.

The train that ran near the homestead would stop to let people off for the Fitches. On one occasion Jennie, her husband Levi and her children got off the train and were not met by anyone. So they started walking, carrying their lunch basket. When they reached a stream, Levi rolled up his pants and was half-way across with the basket when he heard big laughter. Sci had come along with a wagon, picked up the family and transported them across the stream.

Once when visiting family in Indiana, Jennie and her daughter Margie stayed with their Aunt Fi. On Saturday night Fi took her daughters, Stella and Della, along with Jennie and Margie to a stream, where she took her clothes off for a bath in the running water. There was no bed for Margie, so Fi turned down the covers at the foot of the bed where she and her husband slept and laid Margie across its foot. (Margie didn't like it!)

Jennie wanted to go to college, which meant learning Latin. This may be one reason a teacher from Boston was hired by the Fitches to teach in the country school.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS to JENNIE'S FAMILY - November 19, 1992

Page 2 - While Alice's notes state that Sarah's father "was unkind to her," it may have been her brother who caused her to run away. Apparently, when her father died, Sarah's brother inherited his estate and decided to build a brick house. Sarah and her sister, who had to make the bricks, felt unfairly used and subsequently ran away with the Cumstocks.

A number of Alice's notes state that Sarah's father was from Germany and had a German attitude about educating women. However, DeLong is French, and there is some recollection of her background being French. It is possible that this confusion could be resolved by her family being from Alsace-Lorraine or one of the other border areas between France and Germany.

Page 5 - It was Sarah, not Jennie, who would throw rocks where the girls were swimming, trying to make them believe that it was the boys.



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd — Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

Below is a summary of our Reunion mailing list (c. 1983). To save space, the following conventions were us

1. If a man's name follows the family name, assume Mr. & Mrs, unless otherwise specified.
2. If no location is listed, we have no valid mailing address on that family/person.

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY FOR ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS AND SEND UPDATES TO:

Bill Cassell, 9 Independence Ave., Lexington MA 02173

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

Anderson, Howard	
Brewer, Diane (Mrs.)	Omaha NE
Click, Eugene	Fort Wayne IN
Colby, Michael	Arvado CO
DeWitt, Montell	
Evans, Gordon	Wrightstown NJ
Fitch, Cecil	Waterloo IN
Fitch, Forrest (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Fred T.	Almont MI
Fitch, Glenn	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Ivan (Mr.)	Marion IN
Fitch, John	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Kenneth	Inverness FL
Fitch, K.D. (Dr.)	Denver CO
Fitch, Linwood	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Lucinda (Miss)	Floral City FL
Fitch, Oscar (Mrs.)	Garrett IN
Fitch, Oscar (Mr.)	Pittsboro IN
Fitch, Richard	Indianapolis IN
Fitch, Sue Ann	Denver CO
Fitch, Victor	East Hampton MA
Fitch, Victor	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, William S. (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Gay, Max	Churubusco IN
Getty, Raymond	
Head, Roger	Yakima WA
Holocher, Anthony	New Haven IN
Hula, Hillis (Mrs.)	Pinella Park FL
Kistler, Ronald	Avilla IN
More, Marion (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
More, Stephen	Ossian IN
Owens, Ted (Mrs.)	Avilla IN
Pendleton, John S.	Branford CT
Richards, Betty (Mrs.)	St. Petersburg FL
Richards, Michael F. (Mr.)	St. Petersburg FL
Sanford, John	Floral City FL
Sanford, Steven	
Smith, Kenneth F.	Garrett IN
Walberry, Larry	Huntertown IN
Wyatt, George (Mrs.)	Garrett IN

MATHIAS FITCH FAMILY

Arnold, Aaron	Columbia City IN
Arnold, Eli J.	Fort Wayne IN
Arnold, Mary Ellen Kell	Fort Wayne IN
Bailey, Ron	Applegate OR

MATHIAS (CONTINUED)

Brice, Don	Ames IA
Caple, John Alfred	
Culbertson, Eugene	Syracuse IN
Davis, Carolyn Kell (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, David	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, Karl	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, Kevan	Fort Wayne IN
DeBolt, Sarah	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Bryce	Long Beach CA
Fitch, Esther B. (Mrs.)	Garrett IN
Fitch, Eunice	Wenatache WA
Fitch, John A. (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, John S. (Mr.)	Auburn WA
Fitch, Larry	Garrett IN
Fitch, Noel B.	Garden Grove CA
Fitch, Robert E.	Kent WA
Fitch, Warren J.	Fort Wayne IN
Hartnett, Hubert F. (Mr.)	{died Sept. 3, 1992}
Honeick, Enid	Ames IA
Honeick, Gary	Ames IA
Jokay, Alex	Leo IN
Jones, Harold	Zephyrhills FL
Kell, Frederick	Huntertown IN
Kell, Jacob (Mr.)	Huntertown IN
Lockwood, Tim	Churubusco IN
Lyons, Russell	Huntertown IN
Monroe, Bryan	Beaverton OR
Monroe, Rebecca L.	Homer Alaska
Nealy, Don	Balboa CA
Ober, Richard (Mr.)	Temple FL
Seeger, Lee	Fremont IN
Weis, Rick	Big Arm Montana

JENNIE FITCH BEERS FAMILY

Adams, Alyce	
Adams, Dennis	Rochester NY
Adams, Marcia	
Beers, Doug Jr.	Miami FL
Beers, Jane	New Orleans LA
Beers, Nancy	
Beers, Richard	Chico CA
Beers, Robert	Lompoc CA
Beers, Steven	
Cassell, Bill	Lexington MA
Cassell, Lucille (Mrs.)	Chelsea MI
Flinkinger, Glen	

JENNIE (CONTINUED)

Gierlich, Christopher	
Healey, Craig	
Johnston, Jim	Janesville CA
Lyon, Stephen	
Ozanne, Brad	Scotland
Ozanne, D.J. (Mrs.)	Moline IL
Ozanne, Jerry	San Mateo CA
Ozanne, Larry	Washington DC
Ozanne, Robert	Two Rivers WI
Ozanne, Roy (Mr.)	
Ozanne, Steve	Falcon Hts MN
Peterson, Daniel	Harlingen TX
Peterson, Jeff (Mr.)	Madison WI
Peterson, Joyce	Concord MI
Peterson, Matt (Mr.)	Ann Arbor MI
Peterson, Susan	Michigan Center MI
Peterson, Tobias	Chelsea MI
Policht, Jill	Chelsea MI
Pullella, Santo	Troutdale OR
Sherick, Dan	Ann Arbor MI
Spangler, Patrick	Pleasanton CA
Spangler, Randy (Mr.)	
Tegarden, Terry	Cold Spring NY
Wille, Greg	Shorewood WI

CHARLES FITCH FAMILY

Bowling, B.J.	North Canton OH
Chamberlain, Bette	Howard Lake MN
Hart, Robert	
Harvey, Bernice	Minneapolis MN
Kiernan, C.B. (Mr.)	Mertztown PA
Milon, William	Minneapolis MN
Nobis, Anne	New Richmond OH
Pearson, John	St. Paul MN
Pearson, Jon (Mr.)	Staunton VA
Shirk, Loren	Austin TX

AMOS FITCH FAMILY

Dove, Kim	
Dove, Ralph	Huntertown IN
Houser, Kent	Akron OH
Houser, Mark	Xenia OH
Houser, Richard	Xenia OH
Houser, Steven	Xenia OH
Kirbach, Vincent	Bay Village OH
Noll, Larry	
Wagner, Donald	Los Gatos CA

FITELIA FITCH GLOYD FAMILY

Gloyd, Dennis	Churubusco IN
Gloyd, Robert	Fort Wayne IN
Gloyd, Sam	
Gloyd, Travis	Fort Wayne IN
Hardwick, Hazel	San Clemente CA

FITELIA (CONTINUED)

Hoot, Ronald	Fort Wayne IN
Leach, Arlene	Mesa Arizona
Leggit, Charles	Edon OH
Moudy, James	Akron OH
Moyer, Sue	
Rawles, Moudy	

FRANCELIA FITCH FAIR FAMILY

Bressler, Norman (Mr.)	Salina KS
Bressler, Palmer (Mrs.)	Lutherville MD
Cherene, Vincent	Martinez CA
Fair, Christian	Alden KS
Fair, James (Mrs.)	
Fair, Norma	Columbia Missouri
Hulsizer, Barbara	Lexington MA
Macon, James	Anaheim CA
Sleeper, Alan	Alden KS
Wall, Roscoe	Salina KS
White, Merle	Richmond VA

HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

Brown, Angela	
Brown, Darrell	Albion IN
Brown, Ormin	
Brown, Terrill	
Brown, Trumin	
Charlotte, Tom (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Degitz, Daniel	Garrett IN
Downs, Michael	Huntertown IN
Enyeart, Todd	Ontario OR
Fitch, Bernice	
Fitch, Etta	Auburn IN
Fitch, Michael	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Richard	Huntertown IN
Fitch, Richard Jr.	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, William	Bermuda Dunes CA
Freck, Thomas	Nashville TN
Gaff, Steven	
Geller, Joseph	
Green, James	Churubusco IN
Green, James & Matthew	Churubusco IN
Huber, Franklin	Indianapolis IN
Inman, Michael	Norfolk VA
Kelham, Ann	Laotto IN
Kelham, Edward	Auburn IN
Kelham, James	Garrett IN
Lucas, Dorothy	Fort Wayne IN
Lucas, William	
McComb, Danford	Fort Wayne IN
McComb, David (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
McComb, Jay	Brookston IN
McComb, Mollie	West Lafayette IN
McComb, Phyllis	Albion IN
McComb, Russell	Brookston IN

HARVEY (CONTINUED)

McComb, Russell Jr.	Demotte IN
McComb, Ted	Fort Wayne IN
McCrea, Daniel	
Miller, William	Fort Wayne IN
Ropp, Mikel	Bristol IN
Baird, Duncan	St. Paul MN
MacInnes, James	Pasadena MD
Newell, Elizabeth	Fort Wayne IN
Ruen, Donald	Decatur IN
Sister M. Alma Louise,CSC	Notre Dame IN
Sloffer, Danford	Auburn IN
Sloffer, David (Mr.)	Clarksville TN
Sloffer, Paul	Huntertown IN
Sloffer, Phillip	Bloomington IN
Sloffer, Samuel	Madison IN
Sloffer, Walter	Huntertown IN
Smith, Janice	Loveland CO
Thrush, Ted	Garrett IN
Yinling, Kenneth	Garrett IN
Zirkle, Gregory (Mr.)	Carlsbad CA
Zirkle, Jerry	Lisle IL
Zirkle, Mechalle	Aurora IL
Zorger, Kenneth	

SARAH FITCH STRATTON FAMILY

Nobles, Robert	Parkersburg W.VA
Radspieler, Al	Allegan MI
Schafer, Carl (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Stratton, Donald	Wolf Point Montana
Stratton, John	Laurel Montana

DAVID FITCH FAMILY

Brogren, David	Bloomfield Hills MI
Deck, Jerry	Okemos MI
Fitch, James Jr.	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Kay (Mrs.)	Worthington OH
Fitch, William	Bradenton FL
Fitch James (Mr.)	Auburn IN
Florsheim, Robert	Dover MA
Levay, William (Mr.)	Ft. Myers FL
Mann, Bryan	Poughkeepsie NY
Reimann, John	Edina MN
Schofield, Benjamin	Indianapolis IN
Shaffer, James	Yarmouth ME
Shaffer, Robert (Mr.)	Orlando FL
Silha, Otto	Edina MN
Silha, Stephen (Mr.)	Vachon Island WA
Vegler, Margaret	Fort Wayne IN
Wuepper, John	St.Joseph MI



The old Fitch sawmill with Mathias Fitch at the left. The carding mill is behind the sawmill.

9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173
May 6, 1993

Dear Betty and Warren,

We are planning to distribute a special Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter in July that focuses on early reunions and on photos of Nathaniel and Sarah's children and grandchildren before they looked like "grandpa" and "grandma".

We need help in five areas:

1. REUNION RECOLLECTIONS: Can you provide us with any personal memories or stories you heard about Fitch reunions? For example: What did people do at reunions (the children, the adults...eating, talking, swimming, exploring, whatever)? What about the food? Where did visitors stay? Only late ones

2. PHOTOS: Can you provide us with any photos of reunions before 1930, especially those of children and young adults? Or any photos of Nathaniel and Sarah's children or grandchildren before they were grey-haired. no

3. FITCH FLAG: Can you help us locate the American flag sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War? It was displayed at many reunions. no

4. NATHANIEL'S PORTRAIT: Can you help us locate the portrait of Nathaniel that appeared in an 1884 reunion photo? (photo enclosed).

5. IDENTIFICATION OF OUR KIN IN OLD PHOTOS: We have a number of reunion photos from 1884, 1914 and 1915 where individuals are not identified. We would like to send around a packet of these photos, along with enlargements of faces, in the hopes of getting people identified. Then we can include these photos in our newsletter.

Along with the photos we'll send forms that make it easy to locate people in the photos, mailing labels, envelopes and postage.

If you think that you can help us, please fill out the enclosed postcard and drop it in the mail. We need to get moving if we are to meet our deadline for a July newsletter.

Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassell

Bill Cassell
617-862-6172

As your distant Fitch cousin through Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, I writing for your assistance in getting our family records and addresses up-to-date. Sister Mary Louise Fitch, who had been the family archivist for many years and who will be 82 today, turned over her responsibilities to me last summer.

We published a Fitch Reunion Newsletter full of old Fitch stories late last year and discovered that many descendants were missing from the mailing list. Since we are making what will probably be the last serious effort to collect and distribute the early Fitch stories and photos, we feel that it important to get this material into the hands of all of Nathaniel and Sarah's living descendants, whatever their ages or relationship to the family (birth, adoption, marriage).

I have enclosed a partial printout that links Perry's children to his living descendants, as the family records presently exist. Some of the existing information is incomplete (missing names of spouses and/or children, birthdays, places of birth, marriage dates, dates of death, divorces and all important mailing addresses). Some data may be incorrect.

Would you kindly fill in the missing information on your family (highlighted) and send it to me as soon as you can? After the two address columns, the columns are "date of birth", "place of birth", "date of marriage" and "date of death". Please note any divorces, so we can address the newsletters correctly.

You may or may not be interested in the old Fitch history, but somewhere along the line, perhaps years from now, someone may be curious, and it would be sad if they did not have access to the stories, photos and maps that illuminate their forbearers' lives. Intuitively, many of us sense that who we are is, in some fashion, connected to those who preceded us in our families.

Also, if you have or know the whereabouts of any old family photos, maps, documents or stories, please let me know.

Thank you for your assistance in this important project.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassell
Great grandson of Mary Jane Fitch

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Fall 1993

Why a Fitch Newsletter?

If you receive this newsletter, you are directly related, by birth, adoption or marriage, to Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch of Perry Township, Indiana (just north of Fort Wayne). Married in 1840, they had 15 children between 1842 and 1865. 13 of these children lived to adulthood, and 10 had children. Today there are more than 950 living descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah.

Among the first few generations there was a very strong bond of kinship. Almost annual family reunions were formally organized in 1902, bringing Nathaniel's children, grandchildren and great-grand children to Indiana from around the country each July 4th. Informal reunions are documented as early as 1884.

In 1972 a Fitch committee led by Carolyn Davis compiled and published a marvelous 85-page book of family photos, history and lineage. In 1982 the families's vital records were updated.

As the earlier generations passed away and the distances, both generational and physical, between Nathaniel's descendants grew, participation in the annual reunions waned. While there was a local Fort Wayne Reunion in 1992, the last annual Fitch Reunion was in 1986.

By 1992 many of Nathaniel's descendants knew little or nothing about their 19th century Indiana roots or the 100 years of Fitch Reunions. Those who do remember the people and stories of those early days are, for the most part, in their 80's and 90's.

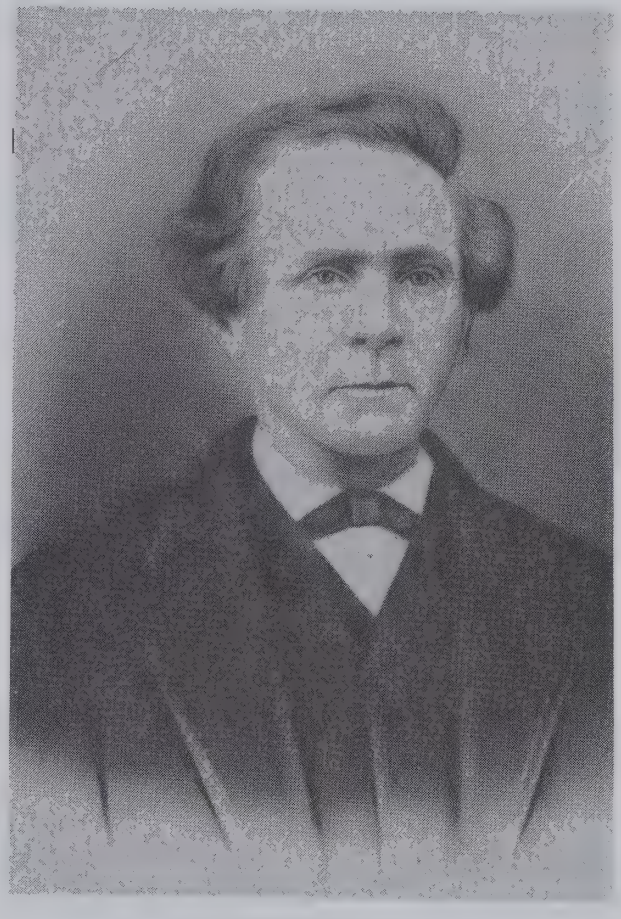
With much of our early family history on the verge of being lost, it was decided at the 1992 Reunion to collect and publish old family stories and photos and to distribute them to every descendant family and adult with a unique address. It is hoped that newsletter recipients will pass along copies of the newsletters to their minor children when they reach adulthood.

While the newsletters may perpetuate the memories of loved ones, now gone, and help maintain links between otherwise distant cousins, they are designed as family historical references.

Newsletter - Pg 2

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since our 1992 mailing list was out-of-date and many cousins did not receive last year's newsletter, its stories and photos are included in this newsletter.



Nathaniel Fitch
"The Jennie portrait"

Sarah & Nathaniel portraits found and now available

During the 1870's Shoaff Photographers of Fort Wayne took at least two portrait photographs of Sarah and at least one of Nathaniel. The family historian has had one pair of those portraits since they were presented to the Family by Margie Beers Ozanne, a daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers. (The Jennie portraits)

A second, slightly different portrait of Nathaniel was known to have existed, as it appears in an 1884 Reunion photograph, but its whereabouts was unknown until recently.

When Betty Fitch provided a list of Fitch items in the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum, it was noted that it included a pair of portraits given by

Portraits - Pg 3

Help Us Identify Our Kin

Many of our older photos are without identification. Elaine Kirbach and Carolyn Davis have been able to identify some, but many faces remain unknown.

If you recognize anyone in our photos who is not identified in a caption, please let the family historian know, so that our family photo albums will be as complete as possible.

Now Available: Address Lists and Vital Records

If you would like an up-to-date copy of your family's vital records and addresses (e.g. Perry and all his descendants), please send a stamped (29 cents), self-addressed business-sized envelope to the family historian, noting which family list you want. (e.g. Mathias)

For more than one family or all the families' lists, please send your request and $5.00 to cover copying and mailing. (Any "profit" from the mailings will go toward the cost of publishing the newsletters.)

- Newsletter from Pg 1 -

It is generally recognized that most people reach a point in their lives when they are curious about their roots. Perhaps intuitively we know that who we have become is somehow, perhaps genetically but certainly experientially, related to the generations that preceded us.

Or perhaps it is just plain curiosity. In any case, the newsletter should provide some insights and answers about our Fitch family that might otherwise be unavailable.

PLEASE WRITE !!!

[OR CALL]

YOUR FAMILY HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

617-862-6172

Sample of Address and Vital Record Lists

Name	Street Address	City State ZIP	Birthdate	Birth Place	Marriage	Date of Death
Amos Fitch			6/11/1849	Perry Twnshp IN		11/ 9/1935
& Nancy E. Hunter	- - -		1/22/1849	Perry Twnshp IN	11/27/1878	6/ 1/1930
Gladys Fitch	- - -		10/15/1881	Butler Twnsph IN		10/30/1962
Rolland H. Fitch	- - -		9/12/1884	Butler Twnshp IN		6/ 3/1959
& Margaret H. Gutermuth	- - -		10/11/1890	Fort Wayne IN	11/27/1930	5/21/1943
Marie E. Fitch	- -		6/29/1891	Butler Twnshp IN		11/20/1984
& Arthur G. Houser	- - -		10/31/1880	Butler Twnshp IN	10/26/1916	5/26/1955
Richard Houser	355 Woodcrest Ln	Xenia OH 43585	5/ 4/1918	Garrett IN		
& Lois J. Hyler	-do-		1/18/1921	Willard OH	8/16/1941	
Steven R. Houser	84 Hardacre Dr.	Xenia OH 43585	9/19/1942	Los Angeles CA		
& Brenda L. Morr	-do-		12/19/1948	Decator IL	10/19/1968	

Etc.

Where is the Fitch Flag?

During the Civil War Nathaniel's daughters sewed together a Union flag to demonstrate their support of the United States' war effort. The flag was displayed at Fitch Reunions up through the 1920's and perhaps later, usually as a photographic backdrop.

At the 1956 Reunion, Nina Fitch presented the flag, which had been given to her by Ida Fitch Mason. Helen Hawver was asked to call the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum and have it placed there with other Fitch family artifacts.

A recent inquiry by Sister M. Alma Louise indicates that the flag is not in the Museum's collection. If anyone has any information on the flag's whereabouts, it would be appreciated if they would contact the family historian. We would like to get color photos of the flag and, if there should be another reunion, we would like to have the flag displayed there. (See Pgs 18, 24, 27)

Another Mystery...

The Photos of Ivan and Frank Fitch

It is believed that both Ivan and Frank Fitch (a grandson and son of Perry, respectively) had old Fitch photos and other memorabilia. We have one photo with Frank's name stamped on its back, implying that he was the photographer.

Their direct lines ceased when Ivan died in 1979, and Frank's only daughter died in 1975. It is possible that their photos have been lost or destroyed, but we are hoping that someone knows of their whereabouts.

If you have any clues, please contact the family historian. We would be very grateful, as there are very few old photos and documents available to us at present.

- Portraits from Pg 1-

Nathaniel's youngest son, David Fitch. Subsequent correspondence with the museum curator confirmed their existence, and color photographs of "the David portraits" were secured for the family records.

We know nothing of the history of David's portraits, but Margie Ozanne's note with Jennie's portraits says, "My mother always hung these portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah in her home the first thing each time she moved. My father was a preacher, and they moved frequently."

The two portraits of Nathaniel were prepared from the same negative, but the charcoal treatment of his clothes is different in each. The portraits of Sarah are each unique.

Thanks to a professional photographer who donated his time, perfect reproductions of "Jennie's" Nathaniel and Sarah portraits are available to the family. Shot in color so that the charcoal enhanced photographs show their age, the copies will appear identical to the originals if framed under glass.

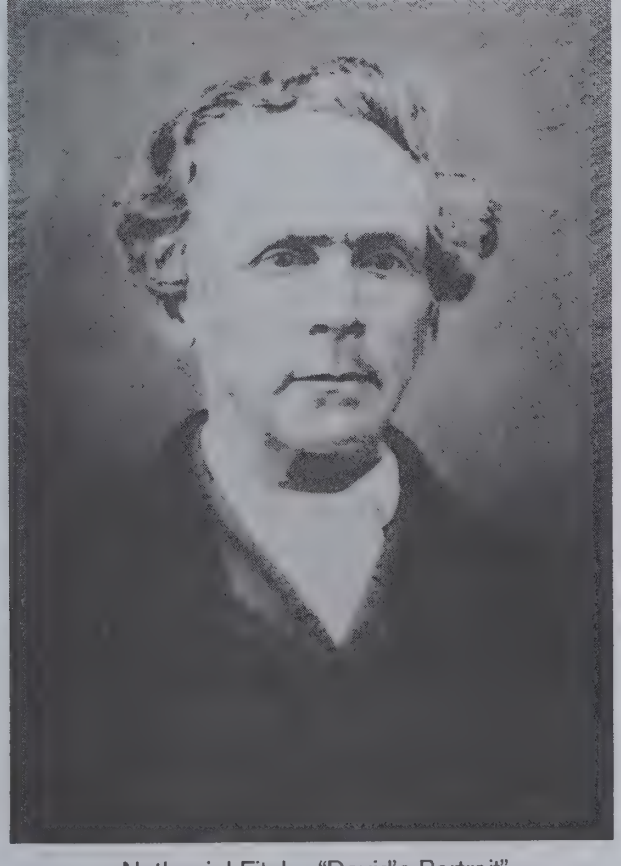
Jennie's original portraits, each of which measures about 14" by 17", have been archivally framed in hand-carved, gold leafed, period frames made of Indiana basswood and presently hang in the living room of the family historian's 1830's home.

Color-matched prints of "Jennie's" portraits are available from the family historian at cost, including shipping.

Prices	5x7	8x10	11x14
1st Print (either N or S)	$7.00	$11.00	$20.00
Add'l Prints of Either	$ 4.00	$ 7.00	$15.00
E.g. Both N & S	$11.00	$18.00	$35.00



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "Jennie's Portrait"



Nathaniel Fitch - "David's Portrait"



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "David's Portrait"

Who's Who in the Family

Keeping track of all our Fitch kin now requires a computer, so it is not possible to publish a complete list in a newsletter. However, it might be helpful in appreciating the stories and photos to know a bit more about the family lineage. If you don't know from which of Nathaniel's children you are descended, ask a parent or grandparent or call the family historian.

Descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch

	Born	Died	Descendant Surnames
Perry Fitch	1/6/1842	4/14/1900	Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence,Evans,Getty,Head,Richards Sanford, Click, Hamilton, Holocher, Dawson, Stetler, Dewitt, Belanger, Hula, Kistler, Owen, Ragan, Dennie, Wright, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Burzloff, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Wyatt, More, Smith, Ewing, Gladbach
Mathias Fitch (Si/Sci)	1/16/1843	12/10/1923	Fitch, Harnett, Bunker, Coen, Lyon, Balch, Blackburn, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Furlough, Kell, Davis Honeick, Brice, Sonderoth, Maurer, Samaniego, Seeger Dillman, Jokay, Monroe, Bailey, DeBolt, Lyons, Gulick Knowles, Barnes, Arnold, Gray, Bushur, Leaycraft, Neally
Mary Jane Fitch (Jennie)	10/15/1844	3/17/1925	Beers, Ozanne, Pullella, Lyon, Wille, Cassell, Spangler Peterson, Sherick, Harrison, Farrell, Polícht, Tegarden, Wheeler-Ozanne, Gierlich, Johnston, Weber, Adams, Flickinger, Healey, Kephart, Hunt
Charles Fitch	3/29/1846	8/21/1925	Fitch, Harvey, Hart, Chamerlain, Shirley, Shirk, Nobis Baden, Bowling, Pearson, Milon, Kiernan, Vilankulu, Durkee, Anderson
Nancy Fitch	3/16/1848	9/ 1/1848	None
Amos Fitch (Ame)	6/11/1849	11/ 9/1935	Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Wagner, Dove, Noll, Wert
Fitelia Fitch (Fi)	4/10/1851	1/ 8/1935	Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emenhiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vandeloop, Hardwick, Cumberland
Francelia Fitch (Frank)	4/10/1851	12/29/1937	Fair, Bressler, Gartner, Macon, White, Cherene, Horn, Christie, Belew, Eric, Hurtig, Scully, Sleeper, Hulsizer, Wall
Harvey Fitch (Harve)	7/15/1853	9/13/1948	Fitch, Hursh, McComb, Freck, Huber, Kittaka, Sloffer, Tom, Kelham, Walters, Gatza, Thrush, Cox, Mossberger, Yarde, Yingling, Degitz, Brown, Ropp, Zirkle, Green, Inman, Miller, Vandermeer, Smith, Lucas, Gaff, McCrea, Geller, Downs, Zorger, Enyeart, Russell
Sarah E. Fitch (Sade)	3/29/1855	8/ 4/1958	Stratton, Jeschke, Bowlby, Schafer, Newell, Radspieler, MacInnes, Shryer, Boast, Boyle, Nobles
Allen Fitch	2/21/1857	12/19/1952	None
Ida A. Fitch	10/25/1858	12/14/1945	None (married Mason)
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/1861	8/28/1949	None (married Hartzell)
John E. Fitch	2/14/1864	5/19/1870	None
David N. Fitch	2/13/1865	4/ 4/1950	Fitch, Wuepper, Deck, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Hawver, Brogren, Scofield, Florsheim, Le Vay, Richardson

Fitch Reunions Remembered
1884 - 1986



The 1884 Reunion "Luncheon"

There was a definite focus on food from the very earliest Reunions, as documented by this photo. Regretably, the informality of the situation prompted many of the children to move about during the long exposure, making most of them small blurs. Close-ups of this photo are on the following pages.

Very few families can boast of having reunions for 100 years, but our Fitch family can. Thanks to the many Reunion secretaries, who wrote minutes of the Reunion activities, the recollections of Mary Belle Brogren, Carolyn Davis and Elaine Kirbach, Marie Fitch Houser's diary (provided by Elaine) and a collection of early photographs, it is possible to get a sense of what the early Reunions were about.

The first documented Reunion was held in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead in Perry Township. Two photos of that Reunion have survived. A formal group photo, which was originally published in the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book, is reprinted on page 6. A second more informal photo provides some insight into one of the major events at Reunions: A potluck luncheon eaten together under the trees.

After a number of casual Reunions, a more formal structure was adopted in 1902 when Mathias Fitch was elected president of the Reunion "organization". Emma Fitch Hartzell was the secretary from 1902 to 1908, when Jerome Gloyd and Belle Fitch became president and secretary, respectively.

From 1911 to 1914 John Fitch presided as president with Kenneth Beers as secretary. Kenneth was, among other things, a journalist, and his minutes are among the most descriptive. Kenneth also took photographs at the Reunions, and two small booklets of his photos from 1914 and 1915 have survived. Excerpts from Marie Fitch Houser's diary in 1913 provide insights into the impact of the Reunions on those who lived near Huntertown, Indiana.



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd — Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

- Reunions from Pg. 5 -

Until 1934 the Reunions were held at the Fitch Homestead or a nearby relative's place. After that, they were often held at various church groves around Huntertown, Cedarville Park or River Lodge Shoaff Park.

July 4, 1911 Reunion Minutes

(This reunion is representative of what went on at early Reunions.)

At the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gloyd in Allen County, Indiana, the 10th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held.

The house was appropriately decorated with the National colors.

Old Glory of which we are all so justly proud, and this grand old flag which for so many years floated over the old seminary, making it especially dear because of its associations, proudly waved a greeting to all comers.

The morning session was entirely devoted to the reception of relatives. A hearty welcome was extended by the host and hostess, and all present gladly responded by expressing their great pleasure in again meeting the happy families.

At noon the basket dinner was served, covers being placed for fifty. Tables were spread on the south lawn in the shade of the large trees.

Although it would be impossible to do justice to a description of such a dinner, all present certainly did justice to the dinner.

At two o'clock, the annual business meeting convened with Mr. Jerome Gloyd, the president, presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, forty-eight responding to roll call, with 79 marked absent. Total number enrolled 127.

The report from the proceeds of the Fitch Fund was given as follows: Allen Fitch $2.53; Mathias Fitch $.10; Emma Hartzell $.70; Ida Mason $.75; Fie Gloyd $.10; Harvey Fitch $.10; Amos Fitch $.60; David Fitch $.25; William Fitch $.10; Kelsey Fitch $.10 and $.20. Total amount $2.65.

In the discussion which followed it was suggested that this money be used, perhaps to bring some distant relative to the annual reunion, perhaps invested, but not to be used to defray the expense of the reunion. A motion was made by David Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, that the Fitch Fund be used in some special way, and that a committee be appointed to state what it should be used for.

The motion was carried, and Allen Hartzell, Mathias Fitch and William Fitch were appointed to the committee. The committee was instructed to submit an annual report from each person who had a share of the original investment.

Dr. Mel Mason was appointed to take the collection to defray the reunion expenses.

The amount given was $4.34, which with a balance $.41 in the treasury, made a total of $4.75 on hand. The following bills were allowed by consent: Ice cream $3.00, Printing $1.35, Total of $4.35, leaving a balance in the treasury of $.40.

The annual election of officers was held, which resulted as follows: President, John Fitch; Secretary, Kenneth Beers and Treasurer, Ida F. Mason.

A cordial invitation was extended by Gladys Fitch for Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch, for the reunion to be held at their home on July 4, 1912, and was heartily accepted by consent.

The motion to adjourn was carried, the boys being anxious to "warm up" with a game of pitching horse shoes, and the girls to "cool off" by wading in the cool waters of the little brook running through the orchard. The invitation to "Come in, the water's fine" was accepted by several who later were forced to return to the house to hunt the lost shoes and stockings.

A lively time resulted, and a number of punishments were meted out to the culprits, Marguerite Fitch, Helen Stratton and Forrest Fitch, while several suspended sentences were given, Aunt Ida acting as prosecutor. No serious results attended those who received the duckings under the pump, nor from the fact that Aunt Ida was obliged to leave for her home without her stockings.

During the afternoon patriotic songs were sung, led by Charles Moudy with May Beers presiding at the organ. Refreshments of ice cream, fruit and lemonade were served.

Guests from a distance were uncle David Young and his grand daughter Miss Mary Young of Troy, Ohio.

Despite the fact that the weather was the hottest on record for seventeen years, all spent a most delightful day, and at a late hour departed for their homes, looking forward to the time of next annual meeting on July 4, 1912.

John Fitch, President
Kenneth Beers, Secretary

Excerpts from Kenneth's minutes in 1912 add some detail:

Harvey Fitch and family were the first to arrive, having decided that the day was ill suited to haying. Others followed in quick succession and, seated under the spreading branches of a big mulberry tree, discussed politics - - mostly Democratic , automobiles - - mostly Overlands, and all things in general until dinner was served.

And the dinner - - a genuine Fitch dinner. Chicken fried, chicken roasted, chicken with dressing, chicken undressed, chicken gravy, chicken and noodles and goodness knows how many more chicken concoctions, boiled ham, cold ham, salads, preserves, pickled eggs, deviled eggs, butters, jellies, pickles, cherry pies and other pies, chocolate cake, sponge cake, devil's food,

angel food, black cakes and white cake.

There was doubtless more, but this is only a record of that which passed one end of the table, and much more failed to pass, for the other end of the table was guarded by Rolland, John, Parker, Otis, Will and others of equal caliber.

Marie Fitch Houser's Diary

(Marie's 1913 diary entries indicate the social nature of the days around the Reunions.)

Tuesday, July 1, 1913

Kenneth and May Beers came about 11 o'clock. Men cut wheat. Kenneth, May, Marguerette and I drove down to John Fitch and Uncle Jerome's in P.M. in our car.

Wednesday, July 2, 1913

Kenneth, May, Marguerette, Gladys and I went to New Haven today. Stopped at Ft. Wayne and had two tires pumped up and tank filled. Got to New Haven about 11 o'clock. Stopped at the bank. Went up town and got soda. Uncle Allen went with us. We drove up to Aunt Ida's a minute. The folks went on out to Aunt Emma's. Marguerette and I went out with Uncle Allen. Edith and baby were there. Had good time and started back to Fort Wayne about 3 o'clock where we visited Harold at Lutheran Hospital. Came out to Huntertown where we stopped at Uncle Frank's and Uncle Harve's. Then stopped at Fred Kell's and then home. Men finished cutting wheat. Went to bed early.

Thursday, July 3, 1913

Worked all day getting ready for reunion. Kenneth and Marguerette went to Hartungs (neighbors) and got butter. Kenneth went down to John Fitch's and Uncle Si's this morning. Stayed at Uncle Si's for dinner. Uncle Si came back with Kenneth and that evening we all went to Auburn for a band concert.

Friday, July 4, 1913

We all went down to Parker's to the reunion. There were 80 there. Aunt Belle, Hurshel and Helen came down after dinner. Aunt Ida and I talked about Dr. Crile. Uncle Mel strayed away, and men had to hunt for him. Had ice cream. Heard report and went home.

Carolyn Kell Davis' Recollections

(Carolyn, who is 92, attended a few reunions as a teenager and all but one from 1923 to 1993. The reason that she couldn't attend before 1923, when the Reunion were changed to the first Sunday in July, was that it was harvest season and her father needed the horses, her brothers and herself in the fields.)

As each guest arrived, they were greeted by the host and hostess or a greeting committee. Out-of-state relatives were given a lot of attention.

As we gathered at the table, one of the family returned thanks.

After a sumptuous meal, we assembled for the business session. They followed Robert's Rules of Order, and the business was soon over. Then all visitors were asked to report all the news of their families and their part of the U.S. The secretary read the letters received from absent members. Memorials were given for members of families who had passed away. We closed the meeting by rising and singing "'Til We Meet Again".

The young men often played baseball in the afternoons. A group of men, including Kenneth Beers and Rolland Fitch, played golf at Auburn.

The children were left to their own resources. Helen Hawver wanted to supply something to entertain them but it wasn't too successful. When the Reunion was at Amos Fitch's, they could go wading in the creek, if some adults went. One time a teenage boy tied knots in the ladies' stockings and hid their shoes and hose. Aunt Ida held the culprit's head under the pump, while someone pumped water and gave him a good dousing.

One highlight of every Reunion was the treats that Uncle Mel Mason and Uncle Allen Hartzell provided before we left to go home: Two large containers of ice cream. The kids lined up and could come back for 2nd's, 3rd's, 4th's, etc. as long as it lasted. For most of the kids this was the only ice cream that they would have all year. Kids were served cones; adults dishes.

Elaine Houser Kirbach's Recollections

I can remember my mother frying chicken, baking a chocolate cake, baking beans, making a jello salad and buttering slices of bread or Parkerhouse rolls.

The best part of the Reunion, as a child growing up , was playing with cousins your age and eating all the good food...and especially the ice cream cones that were handed to us "free" by a couple of male cousins who dipped into big metal containers for the ice cream. There was always a prayer before we ate and usually "Bless the Tie that Binds" was sung.

Some of the men played horseshoes in the afternoon. When my grandparents (Amos Fitch) had the Reunion at their farm, they would clean out the big barn, which was banked, up to where the hay mows were. I believe that is where the tables were set with food. I remember that they gathered all attending on the bank of the barn for a reunion picture.

LOST REUNION PHOTOS

Group photos were a regular part of Reunions, so there are clearly gaps in our photographic records. Can you help?

Helen Belle Brogren's Recollections

My two sisters and I always considered the Family Reunion a part of our summer. My mother would pack our silver and dishes and a meatloaf, (It seemed to be what she always brought.) and we would drive out to the big day with our relatives. It seemed to be always warm and summer, but then children do not recall weather, do they.

I can remember going to a little white church in Huntertown. This was prior to renting a pavillion in Fort Wayne.

The people arrived with their families, and the children piled out and kinda stared at each other. Children shyly take their cousins for granted each year, and I guess that we played after we made polite words to the adults, who made an attempt to get all the members of the family "straight". There were new babies, newly-weds and frail older people.

The women seemed to be always placing the food on a big serving table and talking and waving the flies away. The men played horseshoes.

Highlights of the day were the cousins who arrived from Kansas, the east coast and Minneapolis, etc. Rolland Fitch always created a sensation when he drove up in the latest Packard.

The meetings were full of organization, roll call and the comments from visitors from afar, memorials to the members of the family who had died during the year and letters read from those who could not attend.

At the end of the day, there was free ice cream...all you could eat! Can you imagine in the depression years, the joy of the little cousins!



Four of Nathaniel's daughters at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Jennie Beers, Fitelia Gloyd, Emma Hartzell and Sarah Stratton. (L to R)

Treasurer's Report

At the 1992 Reunion, it was decided to use the money that remained in the Fitch Fund to publish a newsletter, and the Fund's balance of $165 was turned over to the family historian, who makes the following report.

Beginning Balance - 7/92	$165.00
Contributions since 7/92	+305.00
Expenses	
Fall '92 Newsletter	(265.44)
Updating Addresses/Records	
Mailing	(80.94)
Telephone	(240.02)
Copying Loaned Photos	(141.77)
Portrait Framing	(77.98)
Fall '93 Newsletter (est.)	(910.00)
Ending Deficit (est.) - 9/93	(1,246.15)

In the fall of 1992 we sent out 200 22-page newsletters, of which more than 20 were returned for out-of-date addresses. The Fall '93 newsletter will be 32 pages long and will be mailed to more than 400 carefully researched addresses and 950 descendants.

Needless-to-say, we are depending on the generosity of Nathaniel and Sarah's descendants to cover the expenses of our '92 and '93 newsletters and our research and, hopefully, to provide funds for another newsletter next year.

Thanks for your support, financial and otherwise.



Sarah Stratton, Sarah DeLong Fitch (the matriarch) and Nancy H. Fitch (Amos' wife) have tea/coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.(L to R)



Frances Vandolah Fitch (Mathias' wife) peers out from behind the serving table at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Child is unidentified.



Harvey Fitch holding Audrey Fitch, his first child (blurred behind flowers), at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Other children are unidentified.



David Fitch and Jerome Gloyd (Fi's husband) seated at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R) Schuyler Fitch (Mathias' son) sits on the grass.



Amos Fitch sits surrounded by unidentified children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.



An unidentified child sits with his plate in his lap at the 1884 Luncheon Reunion.



William S. Fitch (Perry's son) sits on the grass (R) at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Others unidentified.



Irvin Stratton (Sarah's husband), Mathias Fitch in the checkered shirt and Ida Fitch eat with unidentied children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.



Ida Fitch, Levi Beers (Jennie's husband) and Allen Hartzell (Emma's husband) have their coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R)

1905 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1905
At the Fitch Homestead



(Left to Right, start at the very back row)

1st (Back) Row: Allen Fitch, Harvey Fitch, Schuyler Fitch, Mel Mason

2nd Row: Parker Fitch, Claude Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Otis Fitch, Will Fitch, Rolland Fitch

3rd Row: Allen Hartzell, Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Gladys Fitch, Leah Fitch, (Mrs. Schuyler Fitch), Lucinda Fitch (Mrs. William Fitch), Audrey Fitch, Pearl Fitch, Emma Fitch (Mrs. Allen Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Althea Fitch, Jerome Gloyd, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Fitelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Mathias Fitch, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Dellah Gloyd, Leander Stratton, Norma Gloyd, Beatrice Fitch

4th Row: Bert Fitch, Kelsey Fitch, Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch), Anna Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch) holdingThelma (babu) Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), Helen Fitch, Mrs. Sterlin (mother of Mrs. David Fitch), Cecil Fitch, SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG FITCH, Nina Fitch, Stella Gloyd, Sarah Stratton (Mrs. Erwin Stratton), Emma Fitch (Mrs. David Fitch), Fanny Fitch (Mrs. Mathias Fitch), Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch)

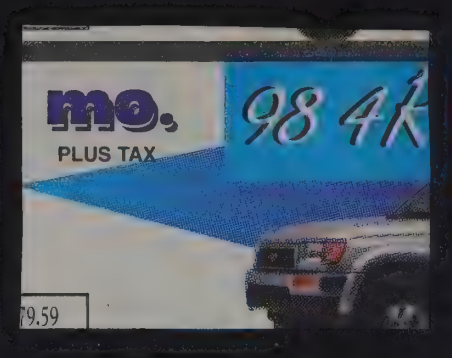
5th Row: Rowene Fitch, Grace Fitch, Cleo Goff (Relative of Jerome Gloyd), "Moms Fitch" (since I don't know who annotated the back of the photo, I can't identify "Moms"), Marguerette Fitch, Ernest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Marguerite Stratton, Helen Stratton, Marie Fitch, Carolyn Kell, Ida Mason (Mrs. Melville Mason)

Maurice Fitch

6th Row: Forrest Fitch, Oscar Fitch, Robert Fitch, Jacob Kell, Merlin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Erma Fitch, Verma Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Kell, Fred Fitch, Victor Fitch



SARAH E. DeBOLT, 95, died Thursday at Golden Years Homestead. Born in Allen County, she was a registered nurse with Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Fla. She retired in 1964. Surviving are a daughter, Margaret E. DeBolt of Fort Wayne; a sister, Mary Ellen Arnold of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Jacob Kell of Huntertown. **No services or calling.** Burial in Clearwater. Arrangements by D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave. 1998


mo.
PLUS TAX
98 4K
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1905

1. Rolland Fitch

Row 4 1. [illegible] Fitch (Bert Fitch) 2. Parker Fitch 3. Beatrice Fitch 4. George Fitch 5. Althea Fitch 6. Otis Fitch 7. Claude Fitch 8. [illegible] Meander Stratton 9.

Row 3 1. Bessie Kell 2. Audrey Fitch 3. Pearl Fitch 4. Stella Gloyd 5. Burgess Fitch 6. Nina 7. Gladys Fitch 8. Della Gloyd

2 Row 1. Bert C. Fitch 2. Will Fitch 3. Sarah M.Ma 4. Earnest Fitch ? 5. Schuylee Fitch 6. John Fitch 7. Kelsey Fitch 8. Hurshal Fitch ?

Front Row Girls 1. Margerite Fitch 2. Cecil Fitch 3. Marg. Stratton 4. Marie Fitch 5. Helen Hawver 6. Helen Stratton Bowlby



Titled "The Progeny" by photographer Kenneth Beers. The ladies and the younger children gather under the trees at the gliding swing at Frances Fitch's (Mrs. Perry Fitch) home on July 4, 1914. None are identified.



More folks at the 1914 Reunion. May Beers is 4th from left with hands folded in her lap. Bryce Ozanne is center foreground. Margie Ozanne 5th from right, seated. Other are unidentified.



Titled "The Battlefield " in a small booklet of photos made available to his kin by Kenneth Beers. "The old evergreen trees made a beautiful background for the decorations of flags and the national colors, and the gentle slope of the lawn towards the road made an ideal place for the one long table where places were set for 83."



Titled "And this 'snap' explains the mysterious disappearance of the beet pickles." Allen Hartzell, whose back is to the camera, has his right hand on the jar of beet pickles. The other end of the table probably never got any.



Looking down the 1914 Reunion table at dinnertime. (L to R: rear) Emma Hartzell and Will Fitch. (Seated) Hurshel Fitch, _____ , Alma Fitch and Sarah Stratton



(L to R) Sarah Stratton (just barely), Jerome Gloyd and a young Fitch with something in her mouth. (R to L) Althea Fitch, Bryce and Margie Ozanne, Rolland Fitch and Mel Mason. Others are unidentified.

On Our Family Photos

Thanks to the same friend and professional photographer who carefully and without charge duplicated the portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah for us, the family historian has a photographic copy stand set up in his home.

Using a Nikon camera, special lights and some incredible close-up lenses, (also loaned to me by this friend) I am able to photograph old prints that have been sent to me by various, thoughtful Fitch kin. When the originals are returned to their owners, our family copies (and negatives) are annotated and filed in photo albums.

As a general rule, I shoot each photo in its entirety, and then, if the faces would not be identifiable in a 5" x 7" enlargement, I use an extreme close-up lens and shoot a series of 3" x 5" photos of the original. My opinion is that we should be able to see what people looked like without a magnifying glass. (Also, they are less expensive than enlargements and fit standard albums.)

The photos on this page are examples of that process. These three photos are actually parts of a single photo taken by Kenneth Beers at the 1914 Reunion and titled "A Closer Look".

If you have any photos that might add to our understanding and appreciation of our Fitch family, please send them to the family historian for copying.



The right side of the table includes (L to R) Althea Fitch, _____ , Helen Hawver and Burgess Fitch.



The Fitch family assembled at Ida and Mel Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana, for the 1915 Reunion, held July 5. Note the Fitch Union Flag behind the tree on the left.



(L to R) David Fitch, _____ , Roy Beers, Mathias Fitch (holding hat). Others are unidentified.



Ida Mason, the hostess of the 1915 Reunion, is wearing the white apron (left of center). The quality of the original photo makes it difficult to identify others; but, hopefully, someone more familiar with these faces will be able to help.



The right hand side of the 1915 Reunion photo. Again, we need help in identifying these folks.



Some happy young folks sit on the front steps at the Masons at the 1915 Reunion. Can anyone identify them?



Children at the 1915 Reunion...Who are they?



More fine looking children on the steps at the Masons' home during the 1915 Reunion. The girl in front of the post may be Hillis Fitch.



More beautiful children without any identifcation.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. All of the 1915 photos were taken by Kenneth Beers. Again, someone should be able to identify their ancestors, aunts, etc. in these photos.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. No identification.



Ice cream cones for all the children at the 1915 Reunion. Unlimited servings of ice cream were part of everyone's Reunion recollections. No identification.



This photo of early automobiles was included in Kenneth Beers' 1915 Reunion collection. Could this be at the Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana?

1917 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1917

At the home of Emma and Allen Hartzell



1917 Fitch Family Reunion Photo

(Left to Right from the back row)

1st Row: Bert Fitch, LeRoy Beers, Kelsey Fitch, Harriet Hartzell, _____ Hartzell (2 nieces of Allen Hartzell), Arthur Houser, Althea Fitch, Gladys Fitch, Melville Mason, Kenneth Beers, Margurite Stratton, Verne McComb, Rolland Fitch, William Fitch, George Hursh, _____ Moudy (father of Charles Moudy), Parker Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Claude Fitch.

2nd Row: Edith Hartzell, Stella Gloyd, Ann Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch), Cecil McComb (Mrs. Verne McComb), Marcelle McComb, Pearl Fitch, Clara Beers (Mrs. Roy Beers), Douglas Beers, May Beers (Mrs. Kenneth Beers), Kenneth Kitch, Marie Houser (Mrs. Arthur Houser), Marguritte Fitch, Edith Fitch (Mrs. Claude Fitch

3rd Row: Alma Fitch (Mrs. Parker Fitch), Philamenia Fitch, Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch, Cami Fitch (Mrs. Frank Fitch), David Fitch, Forrest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Oscar Fitch

4th Row: Loretta Fitch (Mrs. Ollie Fitch), Norma Moudy, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Audrey Hursh (Mrs. George Hursh), Amos Fitch, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), _____McComb, Harvey Fitch, Allen Hartzell, Robert Gloyd, Arvilla Gloyd (Mrs. Otis Gloyd), Hilda Gloyd, Otis Gloyd

5th Row: Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Ida Mason (Mrs. Mel Mason), Mathias Fitch, Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Levi Beers, Jerome Gloyd, Fitelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Sarah Stratton

6th Row: Margurite Griffin, Mary Louise Fitch, Thelma Fitch, Floretta Fitch, Verma Fitch, Erma Fitch, Ralph David Fitch, Icel Fitch, Elizabeth Kell, Rawles Moudy, Hazel Moudy, Iolene Gloyd, Francis Fitch

Rest a little, play a little,
Sighs and tears will come.
Store up all you're able,
Of the sunshine, while there's some.
Pluck the flowers along the way,
For evening comes so soon,
Then you'll want the memories
Of happy hearted noon.

"This verse was repeated by Roy some years ago when Alice and I were traveling with him and Clara."

Margie Beers Ozanne



Harvey and Etta Parker Fitch at their home. (date unknown)

The Memoirs of Charles Oakley Fitch

Anne S. Nobis sent a copy of her grandfather's memoirs to the family historian. Charles Oakley Fitch was Nathaniel's grandson and late in his life he wrote a most interesting and autobiography, which includes background on his mother and father, Charles and Lou Ann Fitch, as well as his uncle Allen Fitch.

Charles O. Fitch was born in 1878 and died in 1958, having lived on a farm in Iowa and then in South St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked his way up in the live stock markets.

The memoirs are 16 single-spaced, typewritten pages and are a full of detailed stories of growing up in the late 19th century with run-away horses, baseball, dances and fights with the Irish, etc. One such story:

"Speaking of ponies, I had finished the 8th grade at the old Stickney School and was driving my pony attached to a one seat sort of buck board buggy with a high seat and would pick up Fay Murray at South Park, and we would drive to the West Side, St. Paul to old Humboldt School.

"I used to leave our pony at Sasso Mack's barn there on the yards everyday as he worked for the yard company.

" I only went to High School for three months when I quit, but during that time I must have been pretty good, as we had a Latin examination, and the next day the teacher in front of the whole class asked me if I used a pony, and I said, "Yes." She said to see her after class.

"She said that she thought I used a pony as my answers were pretty good. I said I did not think that my driving a pony had much to do with my answers, and then she found what kind of a pony I was talking about. I was pretty green and did not know that you could get a book (called a "pony") with the answers to the Latin examinations."

If you would like a copy of his memoirs, please send the family historian a self-addressed, stamped ($.75) business-size envelope with your request.

"Jennie's Family" Available

Published in 1992, "Jennie's Family", a 96-page, large format, soft-bound book, chronicles what it was like growing up as a Methodith preacher's son in western Pennsylvania in the late 19th century. Largely written by Kenneth Beers, a grandson of Nathaniel, it has been favorably compared to Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie".

Full of photos, including all of Jennie's descendants to the present, a limited number of books are available to the family for $20.00 each from the family historian.



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo

chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the leftovers from school graduation in a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." [My mother knew the Noonan children. This is interesting as it shows sanitation was unheard of in those days.]

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1933).

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the District School. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard-to-catch) and tore his coattail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman".

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathaniel liked to hum"Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that recalls the good old days of one's youth.

Memories of Margie Beers Ozanne

Daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers

Recorded December 19, 1971

Nathaniel's estate of farmland and property was divided up by his sons. Jennie, whose husband was a preacher and not a farmer, was given woodland on a stream.

Sarah heard children cry out when the teacher at the country school walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who were seated around the sides of the room. She objected to that behavior by the teacher.

Sarah bought a piano in 1871 for $650, which she received from her relatives in Ohio.

When Sarah was riding somewhere, she would let her grandsons sit behind her and slide off the rear of the horse when she departed.

The train that ran near the homestead would stop to let people off for the Fitches. On one occasion, Jennie, her husband Levi and her children got off the train and were not met by anyone. So they started walking, carrying their lunch basket. When they reached a stream, Levi rolled up his pants and was half-way across with the basket when he heard big laughter. Si had come along with a wagon, picked up the rest of the family and transported them across the stream.

Once when visiting in Indiana, Jennie and her daughter Margie stayed with their Aunt Fi. On Saturday night Fi took her daughters, Stella and Dellah, along with Jennie and Margie, to a stream, where she took her clothes off for a bath in the running water.

On that trip there was no bed for Margie, so Fi turned down the covers at the foot of the bed where she and her husband slept and laid Margie across its foot. (Margie didn't like it!)

Jennie wanted to go the college, which meant learning Latin. This may be one reason a teacher from Boston was hired by the Fitches to teach in the country school.

Corrections & Additions to the Nathaniel and Sarah Reprint from "Jennie's Family"

Page 22 - While Alice's notes state that Sarah's father "was unkind to her," it may have been her brother who caused her to run away to Indiana. According to another source, when her father died, Sarah's brother inherited his estate and decided to build a brick house. Sarah and her sister, who had to make the bricks, felt unfairly used and subsequently ran away from home.

A number of Alice's notes state that Sarah's father was from Germany and had a German attitude about educating women. However, DeLong is French. It is possible that this confusion could be resolved by her family being from the Alsace/Lorraine region or one of the other border areas between France and Germany.

Page 25 - It was Sarah, not Jennie, who would throw rocks where the girls were swimming, trying to make them believe that it was the boys.

Another Fitch Reunion?

This newsletter has focussed on past Reunions. A few of the cousins with whom I spoke while gathering vital records asked if there were any plans for future Reunions. At present there are no plans for Reunions.

However, if there is sufficient interest, there can be future Reunions, either annually or every few years. The key to successful reunions after the first few generations are gone is to find out what would attract family members and then to plan a reunion that will satisfy those interests.

Do people want to sit around and get acquainted with their near and/or distant kin? Or visit old family landmarks? Or hear the elders tell stories? Or look at old photos? Or visit the local museum? Or recreate past Reunions with wading, horseshoes and a potluck dinner spread out on a long table under the trees? Or all of the above?

If you have any interest (or even mild curiosity) in another Fitch Reunion, let me know your thoughts.

What Can You Do?

Keep me Informed

Send me your annual Christmas letters, birth and wedding announcements and obituaries. If you move, send me a change of address card.

Write your stories

Think about your (or your parents' or grandparents') life and note what people or events influenced its direction. What were its crises, joys, turning points and epiphanies? What would you like your descendants to know about you and your family? Send me a copy for our records and maybe publication in a newsletter.

Identify people in the newsletter's photos

Volunteer to help

Keeping track of the vital records and addresses of 1000 people would be better done by a small team of family historians, one for each of the 10 secondary families (e.g. Perry). I could maintain the master computer files, but these individuals would keep track of their respective families.

Help finance the Fitch Reunion Newsletter

Make checks payable to: Bill Cassell.

Fitch Family Historian's Address & Phone

Bill Cassell **617-862-6172**
9 Independence Ave.
Lexington MA 02173

Thanks!

My sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this newsletter possible.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Alice Fitch Deck, Sue Ann Fitch and Elizabeth Newell for their financial contributions.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Carolyn Davis, Betty Fitch, James and Joanne Fitch, Sue Ann Fitch, Jake Fitch, Victor K. Fitch, Evlyn Gloyd, Barbara Hulsizer, Elaine Kirbach and Doris Pendleton for sending Fitch photos, recollections and documents.

Thanks to the many cousins who sent me notes and letters of encouragement and interest in the Fitch history.

Thanks to Carolyn Davis, Sister M. Alma Louise, Betty Fitch and Barbara Hulsizer for helping to update the vital records and addresses.

And special thanks to Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC (Mary Louise Fitch) and Carolyn Davis:

Mary Louise (82, the granddaugher of Harvey Fitch) was the family historian prior to the 1992 Reunion and provided me with meticulously kept records and documents, including much original correspondence and a number of photos.

Carolyn (92, the granddaughter of Mathias), as noted prior to her Reunion recollections, has been active in the Reunions since 1923. She was instrumental in the publication of the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book.

Both Mary Louise and Carolyn were wonderful cheerleaders during the last year, and their roles in the publication of the Reunion newsletters cannot be understated.

Coming in the Fall 1994 Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

- **Our ancestors BEFORE they looked like grandparents. A collection of early photographs of children and young adults.**
- **A map for a self-guided tour of Fitch landmarks (farms, houses, schools, mills, streams, etc.) in Perry Township, Indiana.**
- **More stories and photos of the Fitch Family.** ***If you can help with any of these topics, please write.)***

EXTRA EXTRA

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Spring 1994

110th Anniversary...

Next Fitch Reunion Set for August 20th

An old-fashioned, all descendants invited, Fitch Family Reunion is being planned for Saturday, August 20, 1994, at Northside Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The first such Reunion since 1986 will mark 110 years since the first known Fitch Family Reunion in 1884. While we hope that each and every Fitch cousin can attend, we realize that this is an unrealistic expectation with our kin living from coast-to-coast and overseas. If you think that you won't be able to attend, don't stop reading now. Look at the article below: "If You Can't Join Us..."

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

What: **The 1994 Fitch Family Reunion**
Lunch, stories, photos, letters, sports, tours, getting acquainted and catching up

When: **Saturday, August 20, 1994**
11:00 AM to 4:00pm
Lunch at noon

Where: **Psi Ota Pavilion**
Northside Park, off Parnell Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Who: **All descendants (through birth, marriage or adoption) of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch**

Cost: **Your part of the carry-in or potluck lunch plus whatever you'd like to give toward the Reunion's expenses.**

RSVP: **By July 20, 1994 (but the earlier the better)**

TO: **Mrs. Betty Fitch 219-637-6401**
14615 Auburn Rd. Fort Wayne IN 46845

If You Can't Join Us...

...Send a card or letter to the Fitch Family (c/o Betty Fitch), telling us about your family and/or its Fitch ancestors, or just saying "hello".

...Send current and, if possible, old photos of your part of the family. Identify the people in each photo on its back, along with your name and the word "RETURN", if you want the photo returned. One-of-a-kind photos and documents will be copied for the family records and returned by registered mail after the Reunion.



At a Reunion in the '20's or early '30's, David, Amos and Harvey Fitch display the anvil and bear trap made by their father Nathaniel Fitch.

The Reunion Luncheon

In the tradition of past Reunions, we will have a "carry-in" or "potluck" luncheon, where each family brings and shares a main dish and a salad or a dessert.

Cousins who are traveling more than a couple of hours may want to coordinate with Betty Fitch and provide things that will "travel" or can be secured from Fort Wayne supermarkets (see below) or they may want to make a financial contribution for their purchase.

The Reunion Committee will coordinate or provide condiments, pickles, olives, drinks (coffee, tea and lemonade), rolls, butter, ice cream, table coverings, plates, napkins, eating utensils, cups and bowls, as well as the requisite paper towels and trash bags. NOTE: No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park.

There is a kitchen in the pavilion; but, we will be somewhat limited in how many dishes can be warmed up on or in the oven, so please plan accordingly.

The Location

The Psi Ota Pavilion at Northside Park in Fort Wayne is air-conditioned and has tables and chairs for about 80 people. Additional tables and chairs will be secured, if necessary. The park is accessed from Parnell Avenue, between State and Charlotte.

Within the park are baseball diamonds, play structures, a fitness trail and a basketball court, plus plenty of room to set up a volleyball net or croquet game.

Reunion Activities

Before Lunch: Getting acquainted and an opportunity to examine old family photos, documents and maps. Maybe we can identify more of our relatives in these old photos. Descendant genealogies and address lists will be available, as will various books on the Fitches of America and England. The youngsters can run about and play.

Luncheon: Grace will be followed by the traditional Fitch Reunion luncheon.

After Lunch: Before the youngsters head off for softball, volleyball, croquet or whatever, if they are so inclined, some formal group photos will be taken for the Fitch records. Then there will be a brief Reunion meeting with a Treasurer's report, announcements of recent births and deaths, recognition of various attendees and the reading of letters from those unable to attend.

After the business meeting we will focus on family history. Hopefully, some of our elders will share their memories of earlier days and of kin and places now gone. Younger Fitches will be encouraged to tell any stories that they heard and to ask questions.

Area maps showing Fitch landmarks will be provided for tours later in the day, for those interested.

How You Can Help

Volunteer for the Welcome, Set-up and/or Clean-up Committees. (Contact Betty Fitch)

Bring old family photos and memorabilia to the Reunion.

Prepare to reminisce about your past and that of your family, possibly making some notes that will help you tell family stories.

Bring your camera, take photos at the Reunion and send a set of prints to the Family Historian.

Bring sports/game equipment that can be used by the youngsters (volleyball and net, croquet set, softball, bat and gloves, kickball, etc.) (Contact Betty Fitch)

Coming from a Distance??

If you will be coming from a distance and would like information on lodging and things to do and see in Fort Wayne, call the Fort Wayne/Allen County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 219-424-3700.

And Finally... The Fitch Flag is still Missing!!

If you think that you have a lead on the Union flag sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War, please call Betty Fitch or Bill Cassell. Thanks.



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

SEPTEMBER 16, 1994

CAROLYN DAVIS
417 DALGREN
FORT WAYNE IN 46805

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for renting the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department's PSI OTE PAVILION-LOWER at NORTHSIDE PARK on 08/20/94. You have been randomly selected for your input in your pavilion experience. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed pavilion evaluation card and deposit it in the mail. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY. Thanks for your assistance!

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katherine B. Pargmann

Katherine B. Pargmann
Marketing Manager
Phone: 483-0057 ext. 204

PAVILION RENTAL INFORMATION

Key Deposit/Pickup

1. All pavilion users (except Foster #2 and #3 and Franke #2) are responsible for obtaining a key for unlocking and locking the pavilion.
2. Pavilion keys are distributed from the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 705 East State Blvd., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Keys may be picked up one day prior to weekday reservations and on Fridays for weekend or Monday reservations. PLEASE NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Department is closed for various holidays throughout the year. Please arrange to pick up your pavilion key before holiday closings.
3. A returnable key deposit of $10 is required when the pavilion key is picked up. The deposit is refunded in full if the key is returned within 3 working days of the pavilion rental date.
4. For emergencies on weekends or after 5:00 p.m. weekdays, please call the police dispatcher at 427-1213 and request a Park Unit be sent to help. On weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., call the Parks and Recreation Department at 483-0057. A $10 charge will be assessed if you fail to pick up your pavilion key and must call for assistance.

Pavilion Rental Guidelines

1. Pavilions will open at 9:00 a.m. and must be vacated by 10:50 p.m.
2. Pavilions should be left in a clean and orderly condition. All trash should be properly disposed of in the containers provided.
3. Pavilions should be securely locked after use.
4. No intoxicants of any kind are allowed in the park pavilions. Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed, sold or given away on the premises.
5. Materials shall not be displayed against or nailed on the walls or woodwork nor attached to draperies.
6. Pavilions users shall not sell items in the pavilions without a vending license from the Parks and Recreation Department.
7. Teenage or student groups holding activities that include dancing in the pavilions must employ a security officer. All teenage uses require a chaperon.
8. Each pavilion is equipped with a limited number of table and chairs. The Department cannot provide extras.
9. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and its employees shall not be responsible for damage to/or loss of property upon city premises sustained by applicant, participant in a program or patron of any program held on City property.
10. A $10 service charge is assessed on all returned checks.

Refunds

Please notify the Department (219-483-0057) if you wish to cancel or reschedule your pavilion reservation. Refunds for canceled or rescheduled pavilion reservations shall be granted as follows:

6 or more months notice	Full refund minus $5 or 10% (whichever is greater)
2 - 6 months notice	Full refund minus $5 or 20% (whichever is greater)
Less than 2 months notice	No refund

Note: Reservation transferred to later dates are also subject to a 10% or 20% transfer fee under the same guidelines for advanced notice.

I have read and agree to the pavilion rental conditions outlined above.

Signature Carolyn Davis Date: March 16, 1994

Complete this form and submit white copy with payment to:

Parks and Recreation
705 East State Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

Copy to Betty

March 12, 1994

Dear Carolyn,

I'm sending a copy of this letter to Mary Louise and to Betty, for their information.

July 23 sounds great. I spoke with Bernadine, and I think that we can work around her schedule so that all three of us can come. In any case, I will be there for certain. And, after speaking with my mother and sister Sandy in Michigan, they will be there too (maybe with a few from the next generation in Sandy's family).

While Alex slept yesterday afternoon, I let my mind brainstorm on what needs to be done and what could be done so as to have a vital and worry-free Reunion. I share these thoughts with you just to get things started. Once we get a committee formed, maybe they can use this letter as part of their planning process.

Announcements: I will handle this, using our mailing list. Once I develop the information on the location, hours (what do you think?), agenda, etc., I will publish and mail a one sheet, two-sided newsletter to everyone. I will send you a draft to edit before it goes to press. This should go out as soon as possible, so that people can plan their summers.

The contents of the announcements might be the date, hours, location and description, map, RSVP data (Betty), agenda, activities available, carry-in dinner details, what the Reunion in providing, availability of information on motels and historic sightseeing around Fort Wayne for out-of-towners (from Fort Wayne Visitors' Service, which I have already called), request for old photos and memories/stories, what to do if you can't attend (e.g. send family photos and a letter). One more request for the Fitch flag.

Agenda: (In no particular order) Casual welcome and informal conversation with an opportunity to look at "new" old photos, photos of those who could not attend and family photo albums (which I will bring), documents, maps, etc. (Maybe some identifying of people in old photos - magnifying glasses would be handy.)

"Recruitment" of younger folks who are interested in the family history. Large, easy-to-read name tags should be provided (bold marking pens). Maybe I can print some tags that will identify which of Nathaniel's children each attendee is related to.

I will also bring a number of copies of descendant address lists and a set of 11" x 14" photos of Nathaniel and Sarah (for inclusion in group photos). Maybe we can take some orders for photos. I had some nice ceramic mugs made up

with Sarah and Nathaniel's photos on them. Maybe I'll bring them. Would anyone like a T-shirt with Nathaniel or Sarah's photo on it? Who knows? Maybe we could raise the Fitch consciousness and a little money by offering such souvenirs.

The dinner with grace provided. A formal meeting with secretary's(?) and treasurer's reports. An announcement of recent births and deaths. Recognition of "elders" who are present. Reading of letters from non-attendees. Requests for suggestions on future newsletters and Reunions. (A secretary should be appointed to record these events).

A series of photographs should be taken of attendees: A traditional full group photo, as well as family groupings (i.e. Perry's descendants, Mathias' etc.), and perhaps by generation. (Paper and pens should be available for recording everyone's name in the order of their appearance in the photos.)

Following the formal meeting and photo sessions there might be sports for those interested, listening to "elders" talk about the "early days" (we'll need some cassette tape recorders and blank tapes), tours of Fitch landmarks and just general chatting.

The Dinner: Some coordination may be necessary on who is bringing what, so we don't get all desserts: Salads/appetizers, entrees, desserts, condiments/relishes (pickles, olives, carrot sticks, salt, pepper, sugar, cream, Sweet n Low), bread/rolls and butter. If sweet corn is in season in July out there, we might get some big pots and serve corn-on-the-cob. You mentioned access to a kitchen.

The Reunion Committee should probably provide coffee and tea, soda and milk (and an ice barrel) and ice cream (cones, paper bowls and scoops). Bernadine and I will provide the ice cream and cones in memory of Mel and Ida Mason. In the announcement I thought that I might include the list of foods that had been served at one of the early Reunions.

Also, we'll need some help in setting up the dining area and cleaning up afterwards. Table covering (a roll of plastic from a party store) and masking tape to hold it down. Flowers for the tables. Plastic knives, forks and spoons. Hot and cold cups. Napkins and paper plates. Serving spoons (or ask people to bring them). Trash bags and ties. Trash barrels, if the location does not have them.

If it's a nice day, can we set up outside, possibly in the shade?

Funding: I'm guessing that $3.00 or $4.00 a person would cover the Reunion's out-of-pocket costs, exclusive of the location's cost. I don't know how collections have been made in the past, but I certainly wouldn't want to inhibit someone who might drop $20 into the jar by suggesting something less.

My intuition says to make it a "free will offering" with the proceeds going to pay for the Reunion expenses and future newsletters. Also, I think that it would be appropriate to ask for contributions to the Reunion Fund in the announcement that goes to everyone, since that mailing alone will cost us about $155. What do you think?

That's the extent of my experience in planning such functions. (Our Rotary Club hosts a carry-in barbeque, corn roast and picnic lunch for Boston area foreign students each September, as well as a pancake breakfast on Patriots Day in April. Patriots Day commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Local history says that the Minutemen from the nearby town of Bedford gathered at the Fitch Tavern before marching to Concord to face the British.)

I was told by a Fitch that I met at a Lexington Lions meeting that if you turn over a rock in New England, you're are apt to find a Fitch. They were apparently prolific, with many sons, in 18th century New England.

That's all for now.

Sincerely,

Bill

Betty's Copy

8/7/94

Dear Betty,
Received maps. Wonderful & I'll have a composite map ready for the Reunion.
Bill

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch
Family Reunion Newsletter
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

August 1, 1994

The Editor
Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette
P.O. Box 88
Fort Wayne IN 46801

Dear Sir/Madam:

I thought that your readers be interested in a story about a Fort Wayne family reunion that has a 110-year history and is focussed on an Allen County family founded in 1840.

Over 80 of the 950 living descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch will be gathering at the Psi Ota Pavilion at Northside Park on Saturday, August 20, from 11:00AM to 4:00pm. A copy of our announcement is enclosed.

Nathaniel Fitch was a farmer, mill operator, gunsmith and blacksmith who made most of the ironwork for the canal locks from Wabash to Fort Wayne. With some of his neighbors, he founded the Perry Center Seminary in 1856 and in 1864 sent his oldest daughter to college, which was remarkable for that era. He bought and managed a wool carding mill and a saw mill, which was family operated until 1908.

His wife, Sarah, who agreed to marry him almost sight unseen, had 15 children (the last at age 47) and was midwife to most of the county.

Part of their homestead was recently designated the Bicentennial Woods.

Thanks to a long series of family reunions, commencing in 1884, we have collected many early stories and photographs of this family and its reunions. An enclosed copy of our 1993 newsletter contains some of the stories and photos.

For more information, please contact Betty Fitch at 219-637-6401.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassell
Fitch Family Historian

August 31, 1994

Dear Betty,

Thanks for everything that you and Warren did to make the Reunion both possible and successful. The jars of Fitch Homestead soil and the blocks of Fitch mill wood made for original and personal raffle gifts. Very thoughtful!

Enclosed is a letter that went out to all the Reunion participants, for your information.

I received your letter, checks, receipts, Reunion locations/expenses list, etc. I have recorded the funds and will deposit the checks within a day or so.

I think that your idea about a two-day Reunion is right on target. I know that I didn't get a chance to talk with very many of our kin at the Reunion and would have appreciated more time. As you note, the out-of-towners would have more time to spend with their kin at a two-day affair. And maybe next time we'll get some good weather.

The Psi Ota Pavillion was an excellent site for the Reunion, in light of the weather that we got.

I'm pleased that Judy is interested in her family history. If there is anything that I can do to help her or you in that respect, just let me know. The 3-ring binders that you are setting up sound like a great idea.

I will be sending you a set of my 1994 Reunion photos shortly, in the hopes that you can identify some of the people in the various shots. (Enid did a wonderful job of labeling those that she gave me from the 1992 Reunion.) If you can label and return this set to me, I will send you what is now my file set to keep.

Again my thanks for all your work in keeping the family together.

Sincerely,

Bill

9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173
August 31, 1994

Dear Betty and Warren,

I'm sorry that I didn't get to chat with everyone at the Reunion; but the hours seemed to fly by, and the Reunion was over before I knew it.

SUGGESTIONS

I had wanted to ask everyone who attended for their suggestions on improving any future Reunions and Newsletters. Please call or drop me a note. Already it has been suggested that we have two-day Reunions in the future, every three years (maybe a Friday evening and Saturday, or a Saturday and Sunday morning).

COPIES OF OLD PHOTOS

Thanks to good memories and sharp eyes, we got many people in old Reunion photos identified. Those of you who requested copies of old family photos can expect to see them within a month.

ADDRESS LIST UPDATES

I hope to have our Fall 1994 Newsletter in the mail in early October, before our 3rd Class Postal Permit expires. If you know of any relatives whose address is wrong on our list, please let me know. 3rd class mail is not forwarded or returned. (I'd also like to know about any errors and omissions and any unlisted births, marriages, divorces or deaths in the family.)

1994 REUNION PHOTOS

If you took photos at the Reunion, would you me a set or selection for the family albums? If possible, identify the people in each photo on its back.

PHOTOS OF HEIRLOOMS

I failed to get photos of the heirlooms that were displayed at the Reunion. I would dearly love to have photos and background descriptions of the blankets, etc. for our records. (The best heirloom photos have kin featured with the heirlooms: holding them, standing behind them, etc.)

OLD FAMILY PHOTOS

There were a number of old photos at the Reunion that I would like to copy for the family records, but I didn't get a chance to ask their owners for permission. If you brought old family photos (or have old photos), would you consider sending them to me (well packed and insured) so that I can photograph them. I can photograph them without removing them from albums or frames and return them to you, insured, etc.

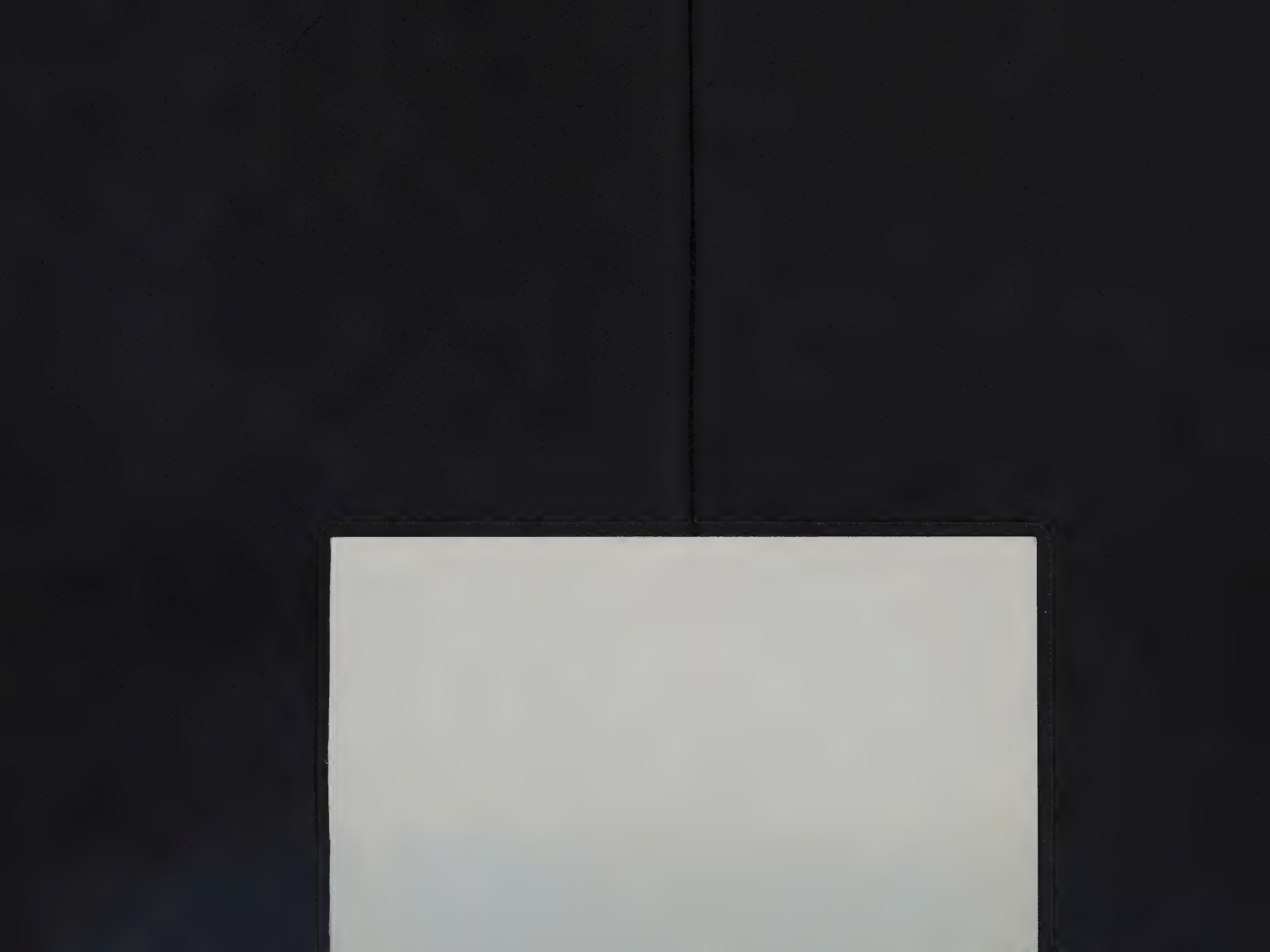
THANK YOU!!

Last, but not least, my sincerest thanks go out to all of you who came and helped to make this a memorable Reunion, especially to Betty and Warren Fitch who orchestrated all the details that made the Reunion a success.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Cassell
617-862-6172



Memories!

I appreciate the map.

I may bring brownies
or other pan cookies

Looking ahead to the reun

Lucille Cassell

DAG

5-23-94

Dear Betty,

I am looking forward to the Fitch Reunion on Saturday, August 20. My daughter, Sandra Peterson and I will probably drive there from Chelsea, Mich. It will be the first reunion I have attended since I was maybe 6 years old. I am now 84. I am a widow. I use a wheelchair.

Bill Cassell is my son. He, his wife and young son will probably fly down from Lexington, Mass.

My mother and father are gone. I have one brother living at Lac (Robert and Inga) Summer home in Two Rivers, Wis. I have no pictures - just



6 August 1994

Dear Betty,

At my age we don't plan too far ahead, so we delayed sending this notice to you. We will try to make it to the reunion on the 20th. We have queried our sons about going, but they are not too excited about reunions and are very busy with other family plans. I have sent Bill Cassell a long letter containing my recollections of Amos and Nancy along with some personal PR — if you have trouble sleeping some night, this may help.

My sister, Elaine, said you had asked about the old music box. I have it, but always assumed it belonged to Amos and Nancy. My mother never told me otherwise. Still in perfect working order.

See you on the 20th.

Sincerely,

Joan and Dick Houser


R E Houser
355 Woodcrest La
Xenia OH 45385
ENERGY
FOR A
POWERFUL AMERICA
29 USA
Mrs. Betty Welch
14615 Auburn Rd
Fort Wayne
IN 46845

HFS

July 26, 1994

Dear Betty —

Thanks for all your work. Here is a check to cover some expenses in lieu of food.

See you Aug 20!

Helen Fitch Sellin

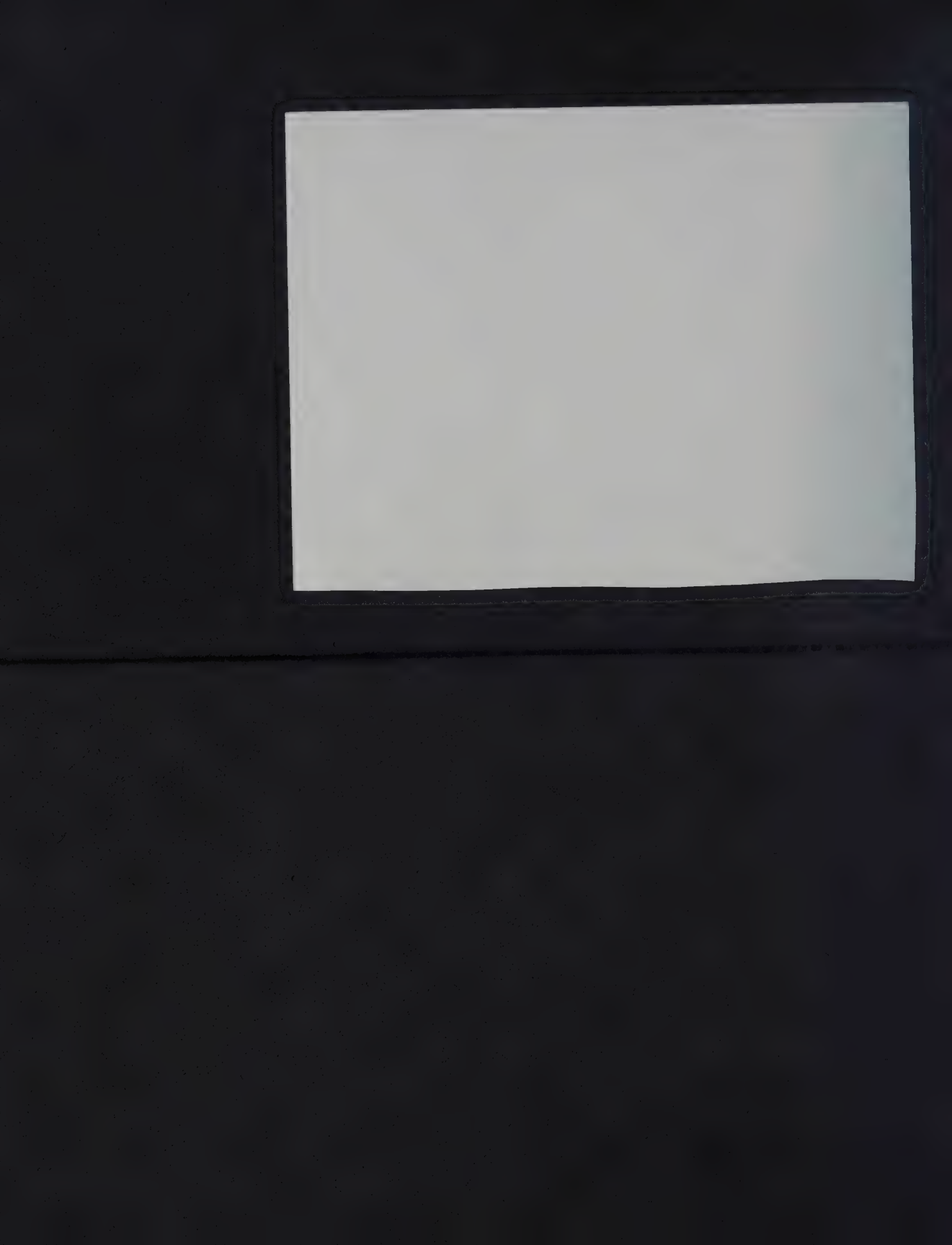


Albion, In.
July 21, 1994

Dear Betty,

As far as I know, my son Darrell + I will attend the reunion. I'm not sure will be there for lunch but will make it later on if not.

Phyllis Brown.



15 June 1994

Mrs. Betty Fitch
14615 Auburn Road
Ft. Wayne, IN 46845

Dear Betty,

I intend to attend the Fitch Family Reunion on the 20th of August. I am Robert L. Beers, son of LeRoy Fitch Beers, son of Jenny Fitch and Levi Beers.

I expect to arrive in Ft. Wayne at 7:50AM on 20 August aboard a Greyhound Bus leaving Rochester at 9:55pm on the 19th. Bill or sister pick up

I am scheduled to fly out of Ft. Wayne on Delta Flt. #3097 at 4:20PM on that same day, 20 August, on my way back home to Riverside, California.

I presume that I can catch a cab to and from the airport or that some kind soul in the Fitch clan may be available to meet me and/or drop me off. Or there may be some better form of transportation available. If you have any suggestions I would appreciate them in time to make arrangements before I leave home on the 21st of JULY as I'm taking off at that time on an extended trip ending up in Rochester. If you should need to reach me at the last minute I will be at the home of my sister, Ellen Beers Adams, at 66 Glen Rd. Rochester, NY 14610 (Phone: 716/381-0248) on the 16th, 17th and 18th of August.

I am lookoing forward to meeting you and the rest of the clan on August 20th.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Beers

Robert L. Beers
Lt. Col. USAF, (Retired)

Bill will take care of this

Alice Fitch
~~SARAH~~ DECK
1185 WRIGHTWIND DRIVE
OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864
349-0281

Dear Betty

How nice there will be a reunion this year. I only wish my father, Bill, could attend from Florida. We have mentioned it but he and my mother are not very mobile any more and are not coming North this summer - only in their dreams -

I plan to attend with either my husband or daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

Sending $15. because I probably won't eat alot of food from Michigan.

Sincerely, Alice

P.S. interested in
walking the "Bicentennial
Woods."

Dear Betty -

I am RSVPing
for July 26 -

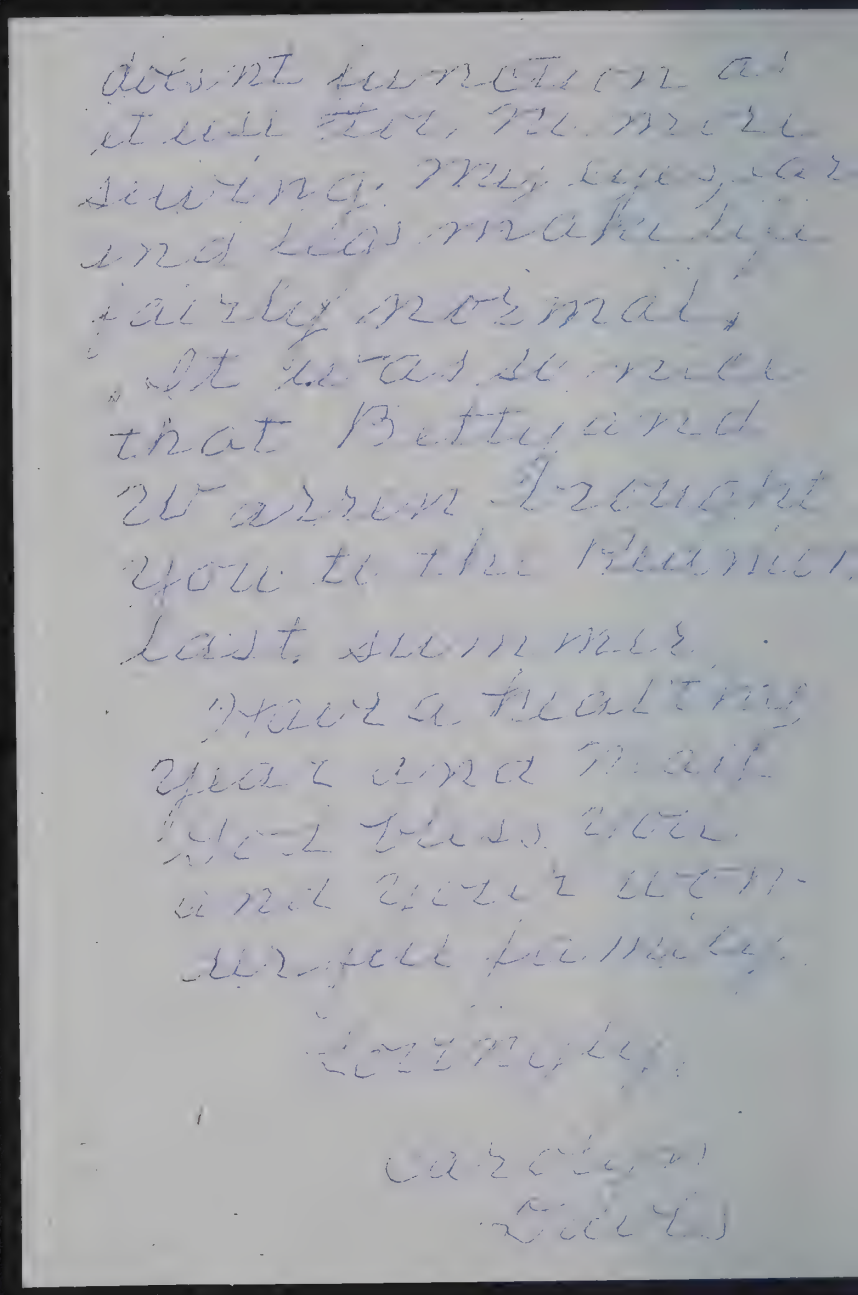
I am delighted
to be coming from
my home in Michigan.
I will be travelling
with Alice Fitch
Beach (my husband
is golfing that week-
end)

What can I do?

I will be coming
to Fort Wayne Tue -
evening ——

Mary Belle
Brogan





Dear Esther

Especially at Christmas--
it's so nice to remember you.

I called Aaron
and where you
are living and had
a nice visit and
I'm glad you are
enjoying your
home again. Our
own names give
us true joy and
quiet delight.
The right-hand

Hallmark

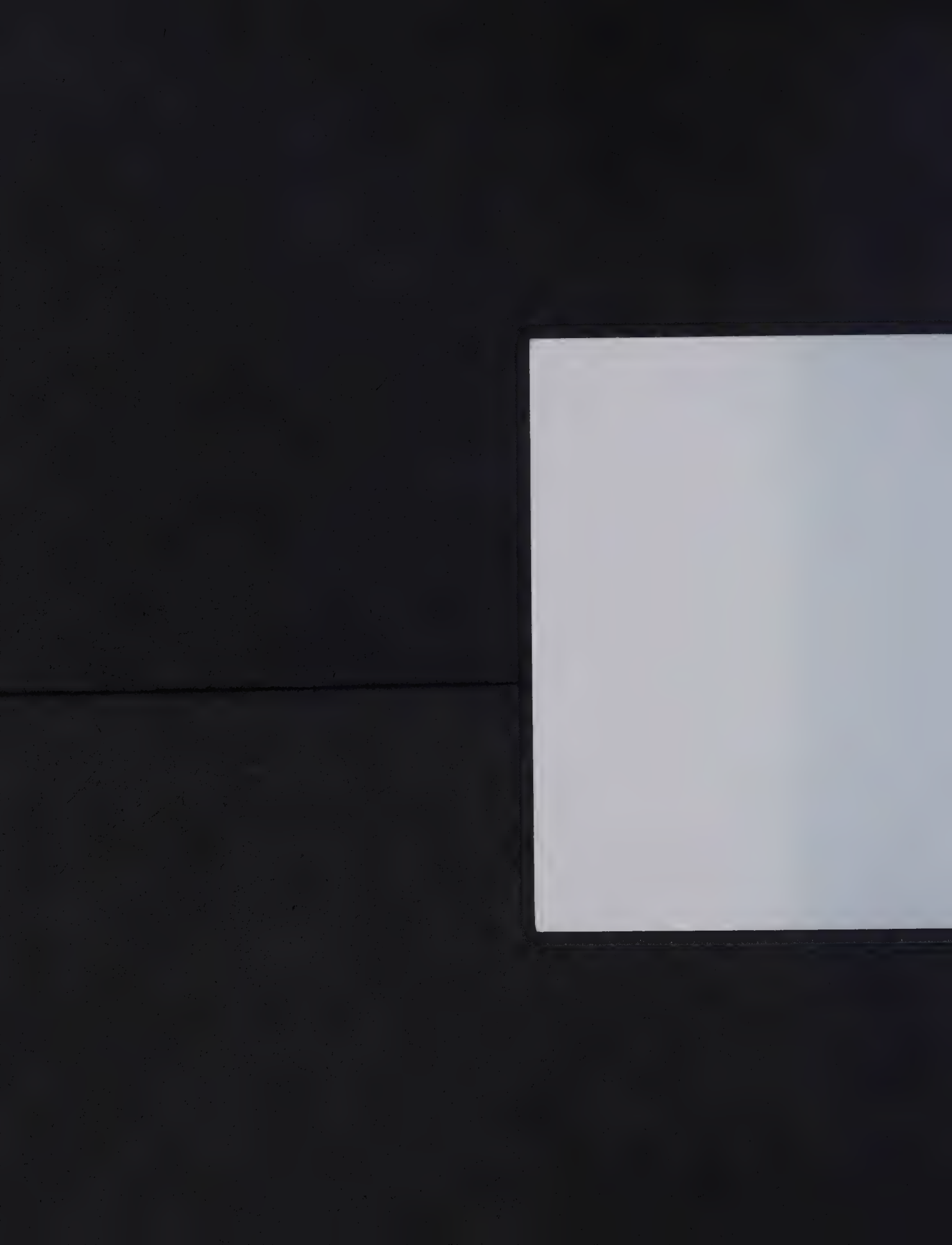
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NPX 412-1

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8-29-94

Betty,

Thanks to you and all of the others who worked so hard to put together the Fitch Reunion. We realize that it's a lot of planning and organizing.

We sail in the jar, the wood, and the rocks were very clever give aways - it is good to have a part of the old homestead.

We enjoyed seeing many relatives and spending time together. Thank you,

Shirley Fair

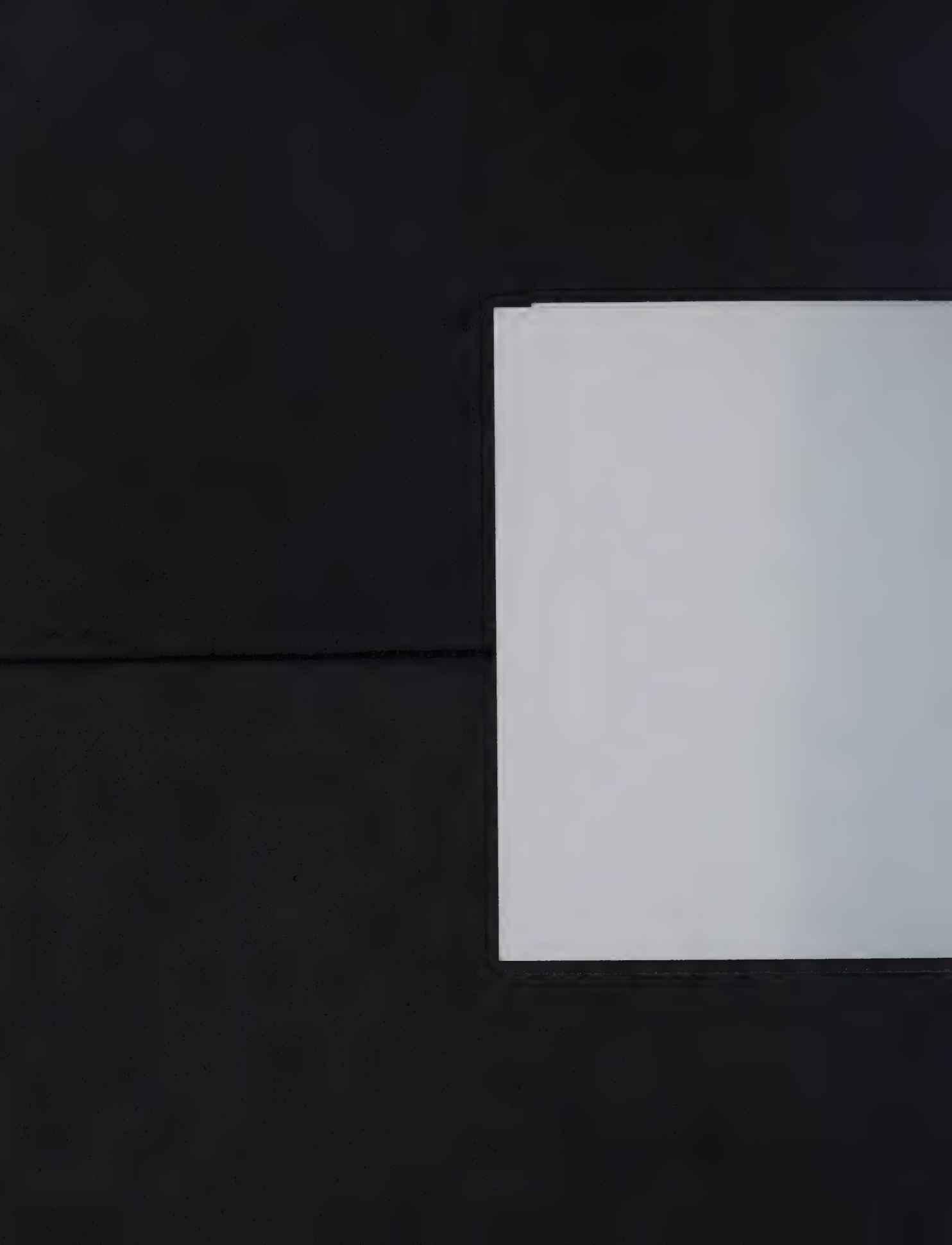
FROM THE HALLMARK HISTORICAL COLLECTION

This design is a reproduction of a greeting card by Jonathan King of London in the 1870s. King was one of the leading British greeting card publishers in the nineteenth century.

Hallmark

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RES. PHOTO





Dear Esther:

May the miracle of Christmas
fill your heart with joy

I think of you so often praying you are well. I'm sorry a heart medication and able to care for

(over please)

Helping in Washington.
My daughter's name
helps with my shopping
and Kim Bud makes sure
she's sent it to Mr. First
for me.
Year. Helped over 7000
Veterans & Their
Families was able
to Help a Billy
Bill Cashill. Battle
Creek area this
last year. God Bless you
Darren Lance

Printed on recycled paper

Produced and distributed by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a non-profit, veterans service organization dedicated to helping paralyzed veterans return to a full and useful life. Please remember the Paralyzed Veterans when you use this card.

MADE IN U.S.A.
50X9351A

Fitch Family Reunion 1994



My helpees
Jennifer and Judy Fitch



Amy, John, David, Warren,
Jeremy, Jennifer



Jeremy, Jenn, Sharon (Gloyd) Hoot,
Ron Hoot, Betty Fitch & Amy



Helen Silha
Joan (Houser) Dove
Evelyn Gloyd



Enid (Davis) Honeick
Maureen Davis & Kelsey
Amanda Davis
Natalie Davis
friend
Nathaniel R. Davis in front of girls



Kael Davis
Sharon (Willig) Davis
Kevan Davis
David Davis
Karolyn Davis Dillman
Robert Dillman
Steven Honeick



Helen Silha's daughter
Charlotte Wuepper
Alice Deck
Jo Fitch of Auburn
Jim Fitch "
John Wuepper
Mary Belle Brogeen
Francia Mann
dau. Emily Birdsall
Sharon (Gloyd) Hoot in back



Sandra (Cassell) Peterson, Bill Cassell
Their mother, Lucille (Ozanne) Cassell



Bob Beers
Ilene Bower, friend of Bud McComb
Richard Houser



Lucille Cassell wearing Jennie's Shawl



Betty, putting out her books



Reading the correspondence



Lots of letters



photo display





Lucille Cassell with her grandmother's graduation gown and bustle. From 1870



Shirley Fair from Kansas

Northside Park
Barn where we had reunion



List of those attending the 1994 Reunion, August 20th

Jacob Kell	Mathias	(original family from which they came)
Helen Fitch Silha	David	
Alice Reimann	David	
David Reimann	David	
Mary Belle Brogren	David	
Emily Birdsall	David	
Francia Fitch Mann	David	
Charlotte Fitch Wuepper	David	
John Wuepper	David	
Alice Fitch Deck	David	
Sharon L. David	Mathias	
David E. Davis	Mathias	
William H. Fitch	Harvey	
Josh Fitch		
Kathryn Dillman	Mathias	
Danford McComb "Bud"	Marvey	
Eileen Bowers	with Bud	
Rob Dillman	Mathias	
Robert Gloyd	Fitelia	
Evelyn Gloyd	Fitelia	
Barbara Hulsizer	Francelia	
Carolyn Davis	Mathias	
Sara Fair Sleeper	Francelia	
Walter Sloffer	Harvey	
Marcell Sloffer	Harvey	
Dorothy Lucas	Harvey	
Jackie Gaff	Harvey	
Russell Lyon	Mathias	
Ann Lyon	Mathias	
Esther Fitch	Mathias	
Warren Fitch	Mathias	
Betty Fitch	Mathias	
Eula Kell	Mathias	
Fred Kell	Mathias	
Lisa Kell	Mathias	
Lana Frey	Mathias	
Matthew Frey	Mathias	
John Fitch	Mathias	
Amy Fitch	Mathias	
Jeremy Fitch	Mathias	
David Fitch	Mathias	
Sharon Hoot	Fitelia	
Ron Hoot	Fitelia	
Anne Geller	Harvey	
Jeanne McCrea	Harvey	
Daniel McCrea	Harvey	
Christopher McCrea	Harvey	

Donna Winters	Harvey	Eric Kell	Mathias
Phyllis Fitch	Harvey	Dorothy Junk	Not a Fitch
Eileen Fitch	Perry	Doug McCarthy	Perry
Bob Beers	Jennie	Enid Honeick	Mathias
Julie Honeick	Mathias	Gary Honeick	Mathias
Steven Honeick	Mathias	Sandy Peterson	Jennie
Lucille Cassell	Jennie	Bill Cassell	Jennie
Ed Fair	Francelia	Norma Fair	Francelia
Glenna Fair	Francelia	Chris Fair	Francelia
Shirley Fair (Mrs. Ed)	Francelia	Richard Houser	Amos
L. Joan Houser	Amos	Ralph Dove	Amos
Joan Dove	Amos	Judy Fitch	Mathias
Jennifer Fitch	Mathias	Jim Fitch	David
Jo Fitch	David	Ann Kelham	Harvey
Phyllis Brown	Harvey	Darrell Brown	Harvey
Elizabeth Newell	Sarah	Sarah E. Radspiller	Sarah
Al Radspiller	Sarah	Karl Davis	Mathias
Caitlin Davis	Mathias	Amanda Davis	Mathias
Natalie Davis	Mathias	Lara Davis	Mathias
Kevin Davis	Mathias	Rose Davis	Mathias
Nathan Davis	Mathias	Sister Alma Louise	Harvey
Etta Philomena Fitch	Harvey		

1917 Family Reunion

Row 1 (front)

1. Margurite Griffin
2. Mary Louise Fitch
3. Thelma Fitch
4. Floretta Fitch
5. Verma Fitch
6. Erma Fitch
7. Ralph David Fitch
8. Icel Fitch
9. Elizabeth Kell
10. Rawles Moudy
11. Hazel Moudy
12. Iolene Gloyd
13. Frances Fitch

Row 2

1. Emma (Fitch) Hartzell..... (Mrs. Allen Hartzell).....dau. Nathaniel & Sarah
2. Ida (Fitch) Mason .....(Mrs. Mel Mason).....dau. Nathaniel & Sarah
3. Mathias Fitch .....son Nathaniel & Sarah
4. Sarah (Gloyd) Fitch .....(Mrs. Perry Fitch) Perry, son Nathaniel & Sarah
5. Jennie (Fitch) Beers.....(Mrs. Levi Beers) .....dau. Nathaniel & Sarah
6. Levi Beers
7. Jerome Gloyd
8. Fitelia (Fitch) Gloyd .....(Mrs. Jerome Gloyd) .....dau. Nathaniel & Sarah
9. Sarah (Fitch) Stratton.....dau. Nathaniel & Sarah

Row 3

1. Loretta (Merriman)Fitch ... (Mrs. Ollie Fitch)
2. Norma Moudy
3. Bessie (Fitch) Kell ..... (Mrs. Fred Kell)
4. Audrey (Fitch) Hursh.....(Mrs. George Hursh)
5. Amos Fitch .....son Nathaniel & Sarah
6. Nancy (Hunter) Fitch.....(Mrs. Amos Fitch)
7. Etta (Parker) Fitch..... (Mrs. Harvey Fitch)
8. _____ McComb
9. Harvey Fitch.....son Nathaniel & Sarah
10. Allen Hartzell
11. Robert Gloyd
12. Arvilla (Moss) Gloyd .....(Mrs. Otis Gloyd)
13. Hilda Gloyd
14. Otis Gloyd

Row 4.

1. Alma (Urbine) Fitch.....(Mrs. Parker Fitch)
2. Philamenia Fitch
3. Belle (Hollopeter) Fitch .....(Mrs. John Fitch)
4. Artie (Otto) Fitch .....(Mrs. Kelsey Fitch)
5. Carrie (DeLong) Fitch..... (Mrs. Frank Fitch)
6. David Nathaniel Fitch .....son Nathaniel & Sarah
7. Forrest Fitch
8. Irvin Fitch
9. Otis Fitch ..... (son of John and Belle)
10. Oscar Fitch

Row 5

1. Edith Hartzell
2. Stella Gloyd
3. Ann (Annise Schopf) Fitch.... (Mrs. Bert Fitch)
4. Cecil (Fitch) McComb .....(Mrs. Verne McComb)
5. Marcelle McComb
6. Pearl Fitch
7. Clara Beers .....(Mrs. Roy Beers)
8. Douglas Beers
9. May Beers..... (Mrs. Kenneth Beers)
10. Kenneth Fitch
11. Marie (Fitch) Houser..... (Mrs. Arthur Houser)
12. Marguritte Fitch
13. Edith (Geller) Fitch.....(Mrs. Claude Fitch)

Row 6

1. Bert Fitch
2. LeRoy Beers
3. Kelsey Fitch
4. Harriet Hartzell
5. _____ Hartzell .....(2 nieces of Allen Hartzell)
6. Arthur Houser
7. Althea Fitch
8. Gladys Fitch
9. Melville Mason
10. Kenneth Beers
11. Margurite Stratton
12. Verne McComb
13. Rolland Fitch
14. William Fitch
15. George Hursh
16. _____ Moudy..... (father of Charles Moudy)
17. Parker Fitch
18. John Fitch
19. George Fitch
20. Claude Fitch

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1995

Can the Fitch Homestead Be Saved?

The Fitch Homestead, after being a Fitch home for 140 years, is no longer owned by the family and is in danger of being torn down. A concerned group of cousins is exploring ways to save the Homestead and return it to Fitch ownership.

Nathaniel Fitch bought the original 160 acres upon which the Fitch Homestead sits from Wesley and Sophia Park for $200 on January 15, 1838.

He and Sarah DeLong were the first couple to be married in Perry Township, Allen County, Indiana; and after their marriage on June 4, 1840, they began housekeeping there in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring. Their first nine children (Perry, Mathias, Jennie, Charles, Nancy, Amos, Fitelia, Francelia and Harvey) were born in that log house. Perry was 13 when the old log house was torn down in 1855.

In 1854 or 1855 they built and moved into a larger, frame house on the same property, where Sarah, Allen, Ida, Emma, John and David were born. It was in that house that Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. The "Fitch Homestead", as it came to be known, and the 160 acres on which it sat were inherited by his youngest son, David Fitch, an Auburn veterinarian. Nathaniel's wife, Sarah, lived there until her death at age 90 on September 2, 1908.

On January 17, 1893, David and his wife, Emma, sold the Homestead and slightly more than 80 acres of the Homestead land to his brother Mathias and his wife, Etta, for $3,300. Since the Homestead sat just east of the new property line that ran north and south down the center of the 160 acre parcel, the property line was bowed westward around the house to give it a bit more land.

So that David could get farm equipment onto his western 80 acres without having to ford Willow Creek (the road to the Homestead came from Coldwater Road on the east), David reserved a right of way to his property across Harvey's property.

Both 80 acre parcels and the Homestead remained in the family until 1993, at which time David's 80 acres were sold to ACRES, a local preservation group (See "Bicentennial Woods"). Harvey's 80 acres and the Homestead, which were owned by his son Ernest's widow, Bernice Fitch, were sold to Irving Gravel Company in early 1994.

To date, the gravel company has removed most of the top soil on the land approaching the Homestead and will soon be removing the underlying gravel. The Homestead is

Homestead - Pg 2



The Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Homestead in 1994

"A Grand Tradition Continued"

'94 Fitch Family Reunion

110 years after the first known Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family Reunion, 90 of their descendants gathered again in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for lunch, family stories, old photos and getting acquainted and reacquainted.

The 1994 Fitch Family Reunion, the first "you-all-come" since 1986, was held at the Psi Ota Pavilion in Northside Park in Fort Wayne from 11:00AM to 4:00pm on a rainy and blustery Saturday, August 20. Of Nathaniel's 10 children who had families, 9 were represented by their descendants at the Reunion: Perry, Mathias, Jennie, Amos, Fitelia, Francelia, Harvey, Sarah and David. While many participants came from the Fort Wayne area, others came from Iowa, Michigan, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and New York.

David's descendants actually arrived a day before -

Reunion - Pg 4

-In This Issue -

Nathaniel & Sarah's Children Before Grey Hair
"The Hanging Fitches?" - More on Vigilantes
The Fitches and the Bicentennial Woods
John Dillinger and Nathaniel's Grandson
Your Fitch Coat of Arms

- Homestead from Page 1 -

presently being rented, but it is not clear whether it will be torn down at some future time. While the Homestead qualifies for inclusion in the National Historic Registry, it does not have adequate historic significance, outside the family, to be protected from demolition.

At the '94 Reunion a number of us discussed the situation and decided to explore the possibility of saving the Homestead. Bill Fitch, Harvey's grandson, talked with Jerry Irving, the owner of Irving Gravel Company, and learned that Jerry was amenable to selling the Homestead. Since this would involve legal issues, fundraising and possibly moving the house, a small ad hoc committee of interested Fitch cousins was organized to do some research. In addition to Bill Fitch, the Homestead Committee includes Bill Cassell, Phyllis Fitch and Maggie Vegeler.

To explore our options and to try to get an idea of the economics of saving the Homestead, we have discussed our situation with representatives of ARCH (Fort Wayne's historic building preservation organization) and ACRES, David Gall (a knowledgable local Realtor), Al Hoffer (an organizer who helped relocate a historic house in Fort Wayne). We have talked with owners of nearby properties that might provide relocation sites.

In early December Maggie Vegeler coordinated a visit to the Homestead by Phyllis Fitch, Dave Gall, Ron Alkind of Priority Inspections, Inc. and a principle of Merkle Heavy Moving Company.

The physical inspection of the Homestead, performed by Priority Inspections, indicates that the building is in pretty decent shape. The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles (a few broken ones), under which is supposedly the original clear butternut clapboards. There are some rotted facia boards, window sills and front door threshold and side trim. The roof has no more than 3 years remaining life.

The interior's condition is that of an older house with the expected plaster cracks and floor sags. There is need of some minor plumbing/heating work, smoke alarms and some minor electrical work in the basement and on the service line. A detailed report is available to anyone who is interested.

To bring the Homestead up to code and to preserve it from further deterioration would be fairly straightforward and cost a few thousand dollars. To restore the Homestead to its 19th century appearance, inside and out, would be significantly more expensive. Based on Bill Cassell's experience in restoring an deteriorated 1830's house in Lexington, Massachusetts, a serious restoration could easily add $30,000 to the cost of the project.

While it may be possible to purchase the Homestead and its present site, plus an acre or two, from Irving, it may be necessary to move the Homestead to a new site. A rough estimate of these costs is $60,000, plus the cost of the house.

The Homestead Committee's goal at this point is to see if there is an economically viable way to save the Homestead and return it to family ownership. If it appears that the Homestead could be purchased, renovated/restored and re-sited, if necessary, and then generate adequate rental income to pay for its mortgage, taxes and maintenance, we will pursue the project.

Ideally, the Homestead should be owned and managed by a non-profit family trust, which would qualify for tax-deductible contributions, and it should be rented to Fitch descendants at a fair market rent (or something less, if the tenants did some maintenance). Or we might be able to locate a descendant family that is interested in owning the Homestead.

Ownership by a trust will require us to raise whatever funds are required in excess of a mortgage through donations and/or loans. This amount could be as little as $15,000 or as much as $30,000, depending on mortgage terms and banking relationships. Since some banks will not provide a mortgage until the house is habitable on its new site, if moved, we might have to secure short-term loans from family members in excess of $100,000.

Our hope is that we can figure out how to secure family ownership of the Homestead without asking anyone for more than the loan of funds at reasonable market rates, so that following your heart into this project would also prove to be a safe, fair investment. Of course, if there is a Fitch financial "angel" out there with some of the needed capital, we would be happy to hear from him or her.

If you are interested in this project in any way and would like to provide financial, moral or any other kind of support, please contact Bill Cassell.

Fitch Homestead Notes by Betty Fitch (7/28/70)

The house, which is in the Greek Revival style, is back on a long lane, which was in the past old Highway 27. Its old clapboards have been covered with shingles and the shutters are gone, which would add much to the appearance of the house as it stands today. The rooms are quite nice sized, and the floors and woodwork are original, except for a few doors. The front door portico is original.

The cabin where Nathaniel and Sarah lived before the house was built was supposed to have been "in the garden"; but the site of the garden has been changed, so its location is difficult to know for sure.

At one time the whole end of the kitchen was a large fireplace, but it had been completely torn down, except for the foundation remains in the basement. The stones that are still there have been whitewashed or painted.

The old beams in the basement that support the house are large logs that were hewn to fit into each other, not really squared off but left nearly in their natural state, excepting for their tops where the flooring fits onto them.

There was a small bedroom just off the kitchen, which was Sarah's bedroom. In most old houses this was called the "borning room" because it was where the mother and her newborn babies stayed. Being next to the fireplace, it was warmer than the other bedrooms.

The old corncrib, with its pegged beams and original siding nailed with square nails, is there but falling into ruin. We thought this to be the blacksmith shop, until Parker Fitch corrected us on that. Its foundation is marked by a pile of stones. (The corncrib was gone by 1973.)

More on the Vigilantes - Regulators

"Don't steal this for fear of life,
"For don't you see the butcher knife?"
(written by Nathaniel Fitch in one of his books)

Among the family stories related in last year's Newsletter was one about Nathaniel Fitch and Jacob Kell (Carolyn Kell's other grandfather) who helped to organize a local vigilante group to stop criminals (largely horse thieves) in the absence of a county sheriff. Research at the Fort Wayne/Allen County Historical Society provided some additional information on the subject of vigilantes or regulators, as they were called.

"An organized gang of desperadoes who terrorized the entire northern portion of Indiana in the forties and fifties became so bold in the commission of their crimes that the state legislature in 1856 responded to the appeal of the law-abiding citizens to organize themselves into bands commonly known as 'regulators.' The law empowered them to capture criminals, give them a fair trial, and, if advisable, to inflict punishment of death.

"Gregory McDougal, a notorious leader of a band of horse thieves, robbers and murderers, was caught and tried in 1857 and hanged on January 26, 1858.

"Former Senator George V. Kell tells of a stable belonging to the thieves located in what at that time was a great wood, and only one-half mile southeast of the New York Central railway station at Huntertown." (This would put the stable within a couple of miles of the Fitch Homestead; and, while there is no evidence that Nathaniel or Jacob participated in this particular event, it is very likely that they did.)

The source for this information, The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne, Indiana, by B.J. Griswold (1917), also states that Mathias and David Fitch participated as regulators. Since Mathias was born in 1843 and David in 1865, their involvement would have had to have been at some later time.

The Youngest Fitch



Hannah E. Davis

The Oldest Fitch



Esther Doll Fitch

Hannah Davis, the youngest Fitch descendant known to the family historian, was born on November 12, 1994, and is a great, great, great granddaughter of David Fitch and the daughter of Sarah and Jason Davis. **Esther Doll**, aged 94, was born on April 28, 1900, and married Otis Fitch, Mathias' grandson, on December 30, 1926.



The windshield of Kenneth Beer's automobile after his meeting with the John Dillinger gang in South Bend IN.

The Fitches Meet the Dillinger Gang

Another of our Fitch cousins had a brush with Indiana's criminal element, albeit years after the 19th century regulators.

Kenneth Beers, Jennie's oldest son, was active in Fitch Family Reunions for many years, acting as the Reunion secretary from 1911 to 1914 and taking many Reunion photos, some of which were bound in small albums with comments for participants.

His fascinating story of growing up as a Methodist minister's son was published in the book, "Jennie's Family", but one event of historical note was not included in his autobiography. Thanks to Bob Beers, Kenneth's nephew, we can share that story with you.

In June or early July, 1934, Kenneth and his wife May were driving through South Bend, Indiana (possibly on the way from their home in Chicago to the Reunion in Fort Wayne). As they approached a corner, a man came running out of a bank and began shooting with a machine gun to stop the traffic; so that John Dillinger and his gang, who were robbing the bank, would have no trouble in reaching their get-away car and escaping. Machine gun bullets went through the front windshield of Kenneth's car and passed out through the back window, but neither Kenneth nor May were hurt.

May wrote on the back of a postcard with the accompanying photos, "A pole through holes - front to back - passes through steering wheel. Puzzled - Where was Kenneth? He does not know, except that we were both there." Bob says that Kenneth and May climbed out of the car and huddled on the running board (something that the younger generations may need explained) until the Dillinger gang had departed.

Family Stories Available

"Memoirs of Charles O. Fitch" by C.O.Fitch
"The Stratton Family" by Marguerite S. Nobles
Jennie's Family edited by Bill Cassell
Contact Bill Cassell, the Family Historian for details

- Reunion from Page 1 -

the Reunion so as to have a mini-reunion of their own on Friday, August 19, which was thought to be a good idea, given how fast the Reunion hours sped by. They also had the opportunity to tour the area, including the Bicentennial Woods, before it rained.

Betty Fitch and her husband, Warren, along with Carolyn Davis, made the local preparations that made the event a success. Their excellent foresight guaranteed us a dry, air-conditioned, wheelchair accessible location with plenty of tables and chairs, a kitchen, drinks, condiments, rolls, etc. Betty went so far as to prepare door prizes for each table: Mason jars of dirt from the Homestead, each with an identifying photo and note of provenance, rocks from the Homestead and small pieces of wood cut by the Fitch sawmill.

Our cousins started showing up early, bearing the most incredible collection of foods, which is apparently a Fitch Reunion tradition. (Both Betty and Carolyn said not to worry about coordinating "who brings what". "It all just works out," they said, and they were right.) Someone brought the traditional jar of beets, but the Family Historian never got the recipe. Enid Honeick and Joan Dove greeted folks as they arrived and made sure that they had name tags and were signed up for the door prize drawings.

As the platters and bowls began to jockey for position on the serving tables, family photos and artifacts were laid out on other tables. Jennie's granddaughter, Lucille Cassell, brought Jennie's wedding sheets, her yak lace cape, her college graduation dress and a blanket made from Fitch wool on the family loom at the Homestead. David's descendants displayed some beautiful woven goods from the same loom.

In addition to chatting and, in one case, doing a bit of business, Nathaniel's descendants browsed through the family photo albums and helped to identify people in 60 to 70 year old Reunion photos, including a few that were enlarged to poster size for easier viewing. Complete lists of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch descendants (vital records and addresses) were distributed, as were maps that identified Fitch lands in 1880.

About noon the artifact tables were cleared, and Bill Cassell welcomed everyone to the Reunion and introduced Sister M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch), who gave the invocation. A marvelous "carry-in" or "potluck" luncheon followed, with enough food left over to repeat the process at least a second time.

Bill called the "business meeting" to order after folks had gotten their desserts and coffee. Betty, Warren and Carolyn were thanked by a hearty round of applause for their invaluable assistance in organizing the Reunion; after-which the representatives of each family (e.g. Amos') were asked to stand and be recognized.

Bill presented the Treasurer's Report, as follows:

Beginning Balance - 7/92 (from the Fitch Fund)	$165.00
Contributions thru 8/19/94 (28 donors)	1,305.00
Expenses	
Fall '92 Newsletters	-265.94
Updating addresses, etc.	-284.92
Copying photos	-141.77
Portrait framing	- 77.98
Fall '93 Newsletters	-691.22
Spring '94 Newsletters	-179.12
Reunion posters, tags, maps	-133.93
Total Expenses	-1,774.88
Net Deficit	-304.88
Contribution from Jennie's Family	304.88
Balance before the Reunion - 8/19/94	0.00

The traditional Fitch hat was passed at the Reunion, and $433.00 was collected. In addition, Betty Fitch passed along $147.52 in Reunion contributions that she received in excess of what she spent on the Reunion, leaving us with $580.52 at the end of the Reunion.

[Since the Reunion, we have received gifts of $165 and have spent $147.47 copying and printing old family photos for interested cousins and $75.00 renewing our 3rd class mailing permit. This leaves us with $523.05 for the '94 Newsletter, which was estimated at $430.00 before the recent postage increase. Depending on the number of pages that we run, we should be OK financially.]

Sister M. Alma Louise read the list of kin who had passed away since January, 1992, and Bill read the list of births since then. Betty Fitch read letters from cousins who could not attend the Reunion, and a few cousins passed along stories about "the old times". [See "I Remember" Page 11] Drawings were held for the door prizes, which included two pairs of 8 x 10 photos of Nathaniel and Sarah.

Before the business meeting was adjourned, the possibility of future Reunions was discussed. In general, the participants thought that there should be future Reunions but that they should run for two days (perhaps a Friday evening & Saturday or a Saturday & Sunday). There was a consensus that there just wasn't enough time to get acquainted at a 5-hour affair, and that kin coming from a distance should have more Reunion to justify their trips.

Also, there was a consensus that major Fitch Reunions should be held every two or three years, not every year. **So, our next Fitch Family Reunion will probably be a two-day affair in the summer of 1996 or 1997, with at least some of the Reunion activities at the Fitch Homestead [see "Homestead"].**

While no one got to play outdoors because of the rain, just about everyone did indulge in the traditional "all-you-can-eat" ice cream event. There were tales of how, as children, some of our elder cousins had hidden their first cones behind their backs, so as to get seconds right away. This year the ice cream and cones were contributed in memory of Mel Mason, Ida Fitch's husband, who for many years brought and served the ice cream at Reunions. The 1915 Reunion was held at the Masons' home in New Haven, Indiana.

After 4:00pm an ad hoc committee of volunteers cleaned up the pavilion, and the 1994 Fitch Family Reunion was officially over.



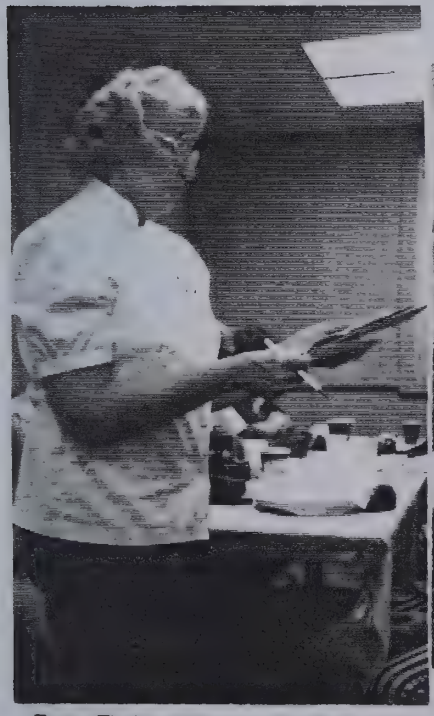
(L-R) Sara Fair Sleeper and Barbara Hulsizer of Francelia's family share lunch with Phyllis Fitch of Harvey's family .

1994 Fitch Family Reunion

August 20, 1994
Fort Wayne, Indiana



(L-R) Lucille Cassell and Bob Beers of Jennie's family in front of a display of old family photos.



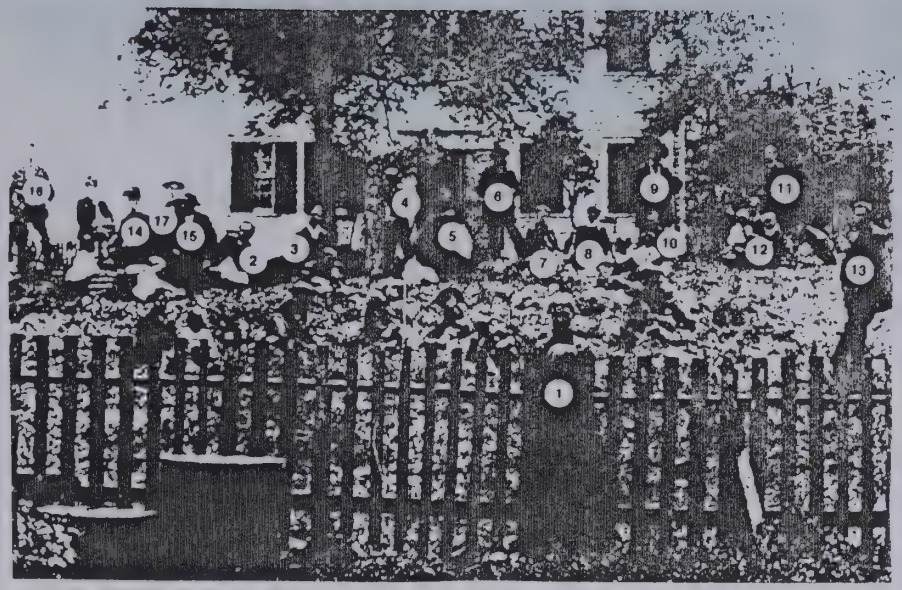
Betty Fitch of Mathias' family reads letters from absent cousins.



Lunch with David's family at the Reunion (L-R) Alice Reimann, Charlotte Wuepper, Alice Deck, Jo Fitch, Jim Fitch, John Wuepper, Mary Belle Brogren, Francia Mann and Emily Birdsall. Sharon Gloyd in the right background.

Sarah DeLong Fitch and Her Family
At the Fitch Homestead in 1884





Sarah DeLong Fitch and Her Family
At the Fitch Homestead for the1884 Family Reunion

1. Sarah DeLong Fitch, Nathaniel's widow
2. Levi Beers, Jennie's husband
3. Jennie Fitch Beers
4. Allen Hartzell, Emma's husband
5. Frances Fitch, Mathias' wife
6. Perry Fitch
7. Nancy Fitch, Amos' wife
8. Sarah Fitch Stratton
9. Amos Fitch
10. Harvey Fitch
11. Irving Stratton, Sarah's husband
12. Ida Alice Fitch
13. Mathias Fitch
14. Fitelia Fitch Gloyd
15. Jerome Gloyd, Fitelia's husband
16. David Fitch
17. Emma Fitch Hartzell

(Some of these identifications are tentative. If you can identify any others or want to make corrections, contact Bill Cassell.)

The photo on page 6 is from a stereoptic card with a pair of identical images designed to be viewed through a stereoptic viewer. The result is a 3-dimensional image of Sarah DeLong Fitch standing almost in your lap and everyone else in varying degrees of appropriate background. It's probably a product of Shoaff Photographers.



The house built by Mathias Fitch 1n 1878 on Fitch Road. The house is now gone, but the barn and carding mill remain on the property.

Mathias Fitch's House by Betty Fitch (1973)

Mathias Fitch built his home on the Fitch Road in 1878, up on a hill from the sawmill and carding mill. Today there are three original buildings standing. The house, the barn and an old hog barn, which was the old carding mill that they moved up the hill and put on a concrete foundation. The foundation is crumbling badly and may undermine the building soon.

The house was very much as it is today, especially from the outside. Earlier in this century, the front porch was built, and the house was sided with shingles. John Fitch did much of this work. Inside a few partiitions have been removed (to make the rooms larger), a bathroom was added and the kitchen was remodeled.

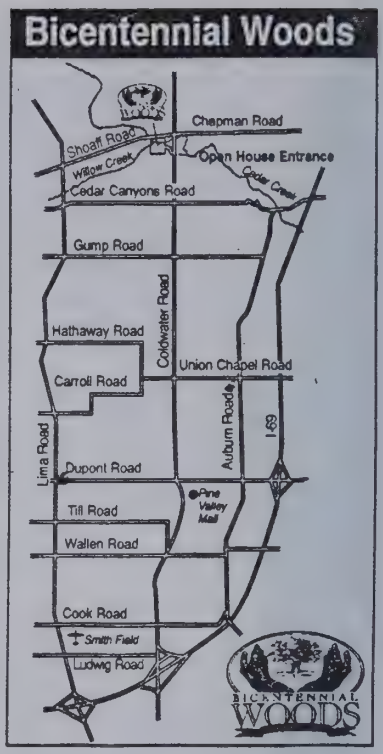
The doors are butternut which was cut at the sawmill, as was the oak and butternut woodwork. By the construction, I would say that Mathias did much of the work himself. It is not the gingerbread type that was very popular in those days.

Mathias got his drinking water from a spring below the hill. They carried it up in buckets. Whenever he went to visit his farms in Iowa, he got an upset stomach and diarrhea because he couldn't stand the water there. He went out to check his Iowa land holdings about once a year.

There used to be a tenants' house right across the road, where Mathias had his help live. Other Fitches also lived there from time to time. John and Belle Fitch lived there, as did Warren and I for the first two years of our marriage.



Richard and Phyllis Fitch explore the Bicentennial Woods west of the Fitch Homestead. They are standing near what is believed to be the location of Nathaniel Fitch's original log cabin, built around 1838.



Fitch Land Becomes Bicentennial Woods

In 1993 the western 80 acres of what was the Fitch Homestead property were purchased by ACRES, a conservation group that acquires natural areas in northeast Indiana and opens them for hiking and nature study. The land has been named the Bicentennial Woods, in conjunction with Fort Wayne's 200th Anniversary celebration in 1994.

David Fitch, who had inherited the Homestead tract of 160 acres when Nathaniel died in 1877, sold the eastern 80 acres and the Homestead to his brother Harvey in 1893. David's 80 acres were subsequently purchased by Frederick Kell and his wife Bessie, who was Mathias' daughter and David's niece. Bessie's daughter, Mary Ellen Arnold, sold the property to ACRES with the understanding that the woods would remain in its natural state.

"It is the last piece of virgin timber in Allen County," said Eli Arnold, one of Mary Ellen's sons. "Without a secure place for it to go, it would be gone. You can't start a forest over, especially one like that. You can't get 200-year-old trees to grow like that....We are confident that it's in good hands."

Since most woodlands were timbered for lumber or firewood in the last century, it is unlikely that many of us have seen a near-virgin forest. In the uplands of the Bicentennial Woods (yes, there are lowlands or wetlands, too) there are massive white oaks and black oaks, some 4 feet in diameter, which could make them 300 to 500 years old. Giant sycamores grow down by Willow Creek and another clear-running stream that feed Cedar Creek. Butternut trees, which have been destroyed by disease in most other places, grow in these woods.

The gravel floor of the forest is cushioned with a thick layer of black loam, and large fallen and rotting trees abound. A profusion of wildflowers, including trillium and geraniums, grow in the forest, along with mushrooms, nettles, poison ivy and garlic mustard.

There are very few stumps in the woods. In 1937 or 1938 Mary Ellen's husband, Dewey Arnold, took some logs from the woods for a barn that later burned down, and in the 1960's three black cherry trees were cut for making veneer. Mary Ellen recalls that a flock of sheep once grazed in the forest.

ACRES has blazed a few trails through the woods and plans some additional trails. A small parking lot is located on Shoaff Road, just west of Coldwater Road, north of Fort Wayne. At the back of the lot is an all-weather box which contains trail maps and a guest registry. It should be noted that this is not a "walk in the park", so sturdy shoes and slacks are suggested.

To their credit, David's descendants who attended the Reunion explored the Bicentennial Woods the day before the Reunion.

Once More: Where is the Fitch Flag?

Perry's grandson, Ivan Fitch, was very active in the Reunions, and he may have had the Civil War Fitch Flag, sewed by Perry's sisters. His widow, "Nancy" Nina Davis Fitch, died in 1979. They had no children, so Nancy's nieces may have inherited things. She was from Marion IN. Can anyone help us locate her nieces or their descendants? Contact Bill Cassell, if you can help.

Nathaniel and Sarah's Children...

Before their hair was grey

Most of the photos that we see of Nathaniel and Sarah's children show them in their elder years, looking very much like "grandpas" or "grandmas".

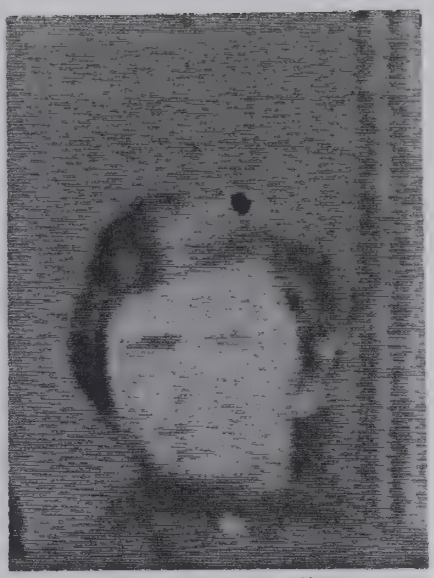
Very few early photos of the children appear to exist. None have been found of the twins, Francelia and Fitelia. A copy of a group photo of the boys, which was taken around 1874, is in the family's possession.

Thanks to Margie Beers Ozanne, we also have early individual photos of Sarah, Ida, Emma and Jennie.

If you have any photos of these "children", please send them (well wrapped and insured) to the Bill Cassell for photographic duplication.



Allen Fitch (age 17)



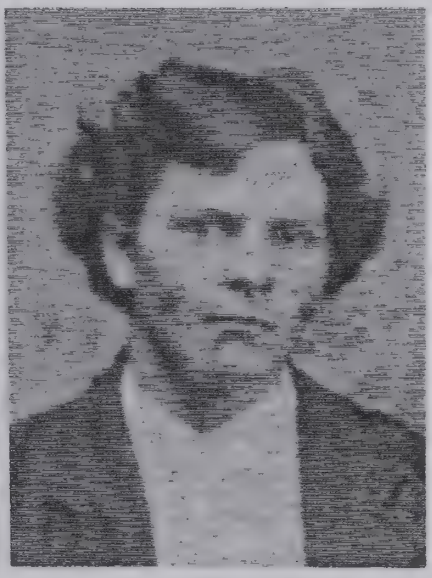
David Fitch (age 9)



Mary Jane "Jennie" Fitch (age 16?)



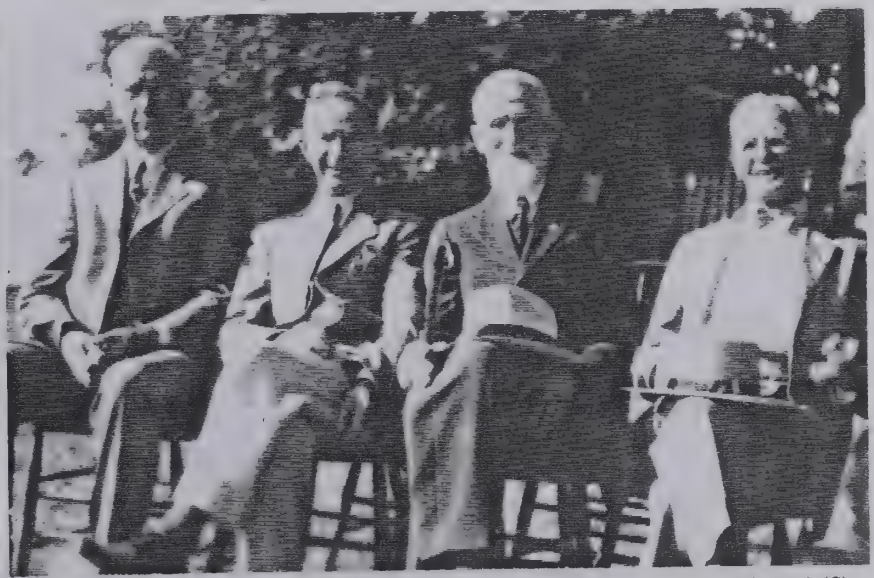
Amos Fitch (age 25)



Harvey Fitch (age 21)



Jennie Fitch Beers (age 65?)



(L-R) Allen, David, Amos and Harvey at a Fitch Family Reunion around 1932 (?).



(L-R) Sarah Fitch Stratton (age 74), Helen Bowlby, Emma Fitch Hartzell (age 68), Fitelia Fitch Gloyd (age 78), Ida Fitch Mason (age 70) and Francelia Fitch Fair (age 78)



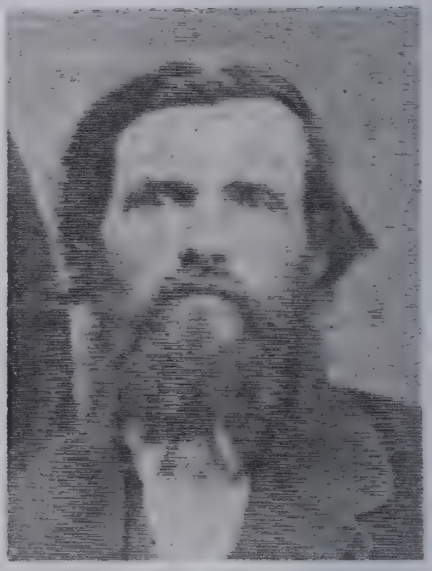
Mathias Fitch (age 31)



Emma Fitch (Age Unknown)



Ida Alice Fitch (age 22)



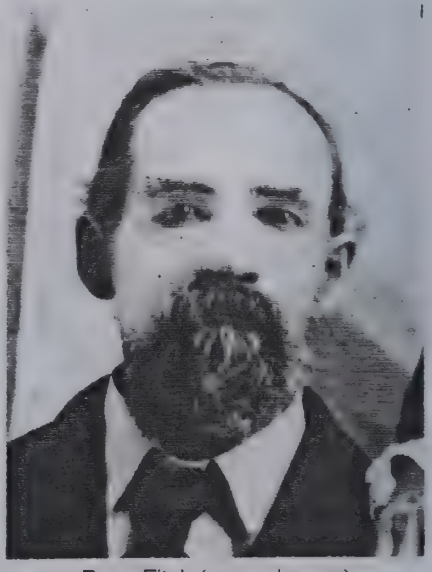
Perry Fitch (age 32)



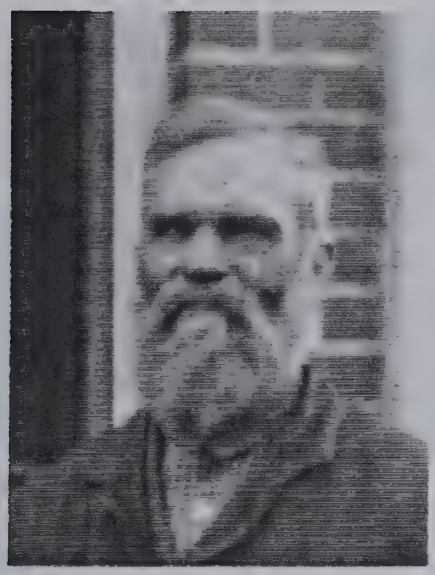
Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton (age 28?)



Charles Fitch (age 28)



Perry Fitch (age unknown)



Mathias Fitch (Date Unknown)

I remember...

Personal recollections are very important in making our Fitch history come to life for the younger members of the family. If you have any recollections of the "old days", the Fitch historian would love to receive them, either written or taped.

Dick Houser, who was born in 1918 and is the grandson of Amos and Nancy Fitch and the son of Marie Fitch and Arthur Houser, recalls:

"In the early twenties and thirties, my parents would spend Sunday afternoons and evenings at the (Amos) Fitch Farm in DeKalb County. My dad particularly enjoyed going out there because it gave him some relief from his busy "city" responsibilities...Garrett being a metropolis of 4500 people. Although my dad never smoked, he knew how to stay on the good side of Amos...He would bring him a White Owl cigar each time we went to the farm. I can still see Grandpa Amos sitting back in his porch chair, thoroughly enjoying his once-a-week pollution of the environment. Even I occasionally sense his satisfaction when I indulge in this much-maligned habit.

"Grandpa Amos loved to fish, and on what I considered special occasions, would take me with him into the woods where we would sit by the "Backwater" for hours, watching the bullheads nibble the bait off our hooks. The "Backwater" was a U-shaped section of Cedar Creek which had been by-passed in an earlier dredging operation. Bullheads were never more than 10 inches long, and the infrequently found sun-fish in the main stream of Cedar Creek were even smaller. He always admonished me to be careful and not get horned by the catfish whiskers. To this day I'm not sure whether he was serious or just pulling my leg.

"I remember one day in particular, when I was swatting mosquitoes and dodging dragon flies, my straw hat slipped out of my hands and went sailing down stream. He muttered something under his breath, grabbed a long branch, slipped and slid along the gravel bank, till the hat came to a bend in the creek, where he recovered the wandering headpiece. If I recall correctly, we didn't do much fishing after that, he probably thinking that it wasn't worth the effort. This wasn't all bad because I had had my fill of no-bites, no fish, and bugs galore. To this day I have politely refused to go fishing with anybody, no matter how high the bribe or how friendly the fish.

"Amos was always very progressive and had a knack of devising his own tools. He made a special hedge trimming knife from a discarded scythe blade, probably motivated by the long hedges paralleling his front yard to the road with a longer section running along the road to the woods west of the house.

"He built a retaining wall around a spring in a hill next to the woods west of his house. Then piped this water to a hydraulic ram at a lower level on the hill. This then pumped water to a tank in the house and a watering trough at the barn. He was always tinkering with leather gaskets and valves at the ram.

"He was the first and maybe the only farmer in his area to power his home and barns with electricity. He and his son, Roland, installed a Delco power plant, the wiring and the batteries to run small DC motors and lights in all the buildings. This may have been the brainchild of Roland, who graduated from Purdue in Electrical Engineering in 1912.

"The house was heated by a furnace which could take logs 5 or 6 feet long--this may be exaggerated but to me they seemed very long. The woods provided plenty of fuel as long as the trees were felled and split and cut to the proper lengths. Hauling those longs to the house and storing them in the basement posed problems, so he utilized two steel wheels from an abandoned vehicle to make a very low-slung wagon. This was much more convenient to load and unload stacked cargo. Since I had demonstrated some sketching ability, he asked me to provide some drawings which he submitted to some farm magazine for publication.

"It is ironic that with all this desire to try new things, Grandpa Amos never owned a tractor. He continued to use horsepower for plowing, discing, mowing and binding. I can remember following him and his horses pulling a single bottom plow, walking furrow after furrow until you would think there was no end. Although he owned about 120 tillable acres, he probably worked no more than 90, which was no small feat, when you are relying on horses alone.

As I recall, it wasn't until the late twenties or early thirties that he had any hired help to assist in the farming. It was a big day during the threshing season when all the neighbors rolled in with their horses and wagons, and Custer Surfus chugged down the lane with his spanking new McCormick-Deering tractor towing the threshing machine. And Grandma Nancy and Aunt Gladys and sometimes Mom worked overtime to feed these hungry threshers at noon.

"I can also remember playing on an old rusting

Remember - Pg 12

tank in Grandpa Amos' orchard. It had a lot of push rods and valves and, in a child's vivid imagination, could easily be converted into a steam engine or even a space ship. When I asked what this was, my mother told me that they once had acetylene lamps installed in the house and that this was an acetylene generator that had been placed in a brick-enclosed well near the house. However, her dad had become concerned over the safety of this concept and had abandoned the system upon hearing of several explosions."

Vic Fitch, who was born in 1936 and is the great-grandson of Perry and Sarah, grandson of William and Lucinda Fitch and son of Forrest and Viola Fitch, recalls:

"Dad and I spent a great deal of time hunting and riding around Fitch territory, which were many of our best times. I enjoyed listening to the tales of his youth. Of family gatherings at the farm on Fitch Road, which is now a county road between the Allen-DeKalb County Line Road and County Road 68. Stories of how men would gather outside the big bank barn and whistle to get a woodchuck to stand up and then shoot him with a .22 rifle. The reason being that the horses would step in the groundhog holes and break a leg.

"How I enjoyed visiting and hunting the Amos Fitch farm and seeing Cousin Gladys and the horses and livestock. Quite a change for a "city boy". Hunting the woods and slipping through it on cowpaths was quite a treat. But "skinny dipping" in Cedar Creek was the most pleasure. Dad and I always went hunting on my birthday (August 30), and that was part of it. There were times it was too hot to hunt and the perspiration would just drip off of us, and mosquitoes "as big as B-29's" would pester us crazy in spite of bathing in citronella. The creek was the only relief. But by the time we dressed and walked up to the house with no further thought of hunting, Dad would be almost sick from the heat.

"Another story that I enjoyed was how a Fitch boy was sweet on a young lady whose father would have no part of it. He refused to even let the Fitch boy on their farm and made the young lady marry someone of his choosing. When their first child was born, there was no mistaking that it was a Fitch! For history's sake, it's probably just as well that their names are long since forgotten.

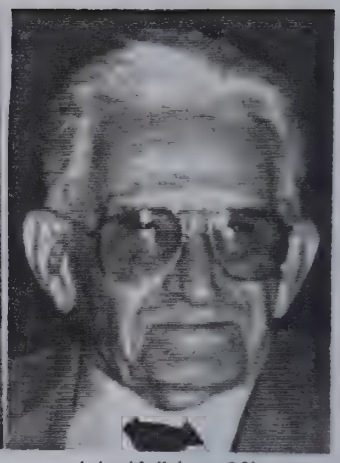
"Stories of Mathias Fitch who was so "cross-eyed" that you couldn't tell where he was looking but that he seldom ever missed a rabbit with a shotgun. Si also raised rabbits but wasn't real careful about making certain that the hutches were latched. His rabbits crossbred with the cottontails in the swamp. Biggest rabbits you ever saw!

"A story was told of Claude Fitch (Mathias' youngest son, born 1880) courting in his horse and buggy, falling asleep on the way home and waking up when the horse stopped in front of the barn. On another occasion Claude was startled awake when the interurban trolley roared past as the horse waited patiently at the crossing.

"Also I recall stories of how Dad and Jake Kell (Mathias' grandson, born 1904) were the dandies of the area, and the times they had together. Huntertown was never the same!



Jake Kell (age 17?)



Jake Kell (age 90)

"I used to enjoy going to reunions at Cedarville, Huntertown, City Utilities park. It was after one of them at City Utilities Park that Cousin Rawles Moudy and his wife invited me to spend a week with their three kids on the farm at the corner of old Auburn and Union Chapel Roads. I remember helping with chores, playing in the haymow, riding the tractor while discing extremely rough ground and taking a bath on Saturday night in a galvanized tub. Now THAT was different!"

The Fitch Coat of Arms

If you are like most of us, in the course of your life you will receive a mailing that will offer you a copy of your family coat of arms...for a small fee, of course. Thanks to research done by Carolyn Davis and Roscoe Conkling Fitch, we can save you the expense and provide you with a copy of the Fitch Coat of Arms. You never know when it will come in handy. I recently carved it into the upper back rail of a small cherry armchair that I built for my son.

From the History of the Fitch Family, 1400 to 1930 by Roscoe Conkling Fitch:

"The Fitch Coat of Arms has a very ancient origin and the right to the use of the Arms has been a proud prerogative of succeeding generations through the centuries.

"There are few families in America who can trace their ancestry as far back as the established English 'Pedegree of Fitch' or use as ancient a coat of arms by official recognition.

"The claim of the descendants of Thomas Fitch, Esq. of Bocking, County Essex, England, father of four Fitch brothers who settled in Connecticut to the use of both ancient and 16th century Fitch Arms was proven to satisfaction by the New England Historic Genealogical Society by Winchester Fitch, Esq. who submitted his proofs to the Committee on Heraldry and the Fitch Arms were included in the Society's "Roll of Arms".

"The Fitch Family is one of 72 American families -

Coat of Arms - Pg 13

- Coat of Arms from Page 12 -

thus enrolled.

"The shield or escutcheon is the field on which the bearings are grouped; it is described as 'vert' meaning green - signifying mirth, love, gladness.

"A chevron means a bar of two pieces coming together, rafted like, forming an inverted 'V'.

"The width of the arms is one fifth of the length of the shield; its ornamentation is described as or meaning gold or yellow - signifying power or sovereignty.

"Among animals on Coat of Arms the lion holds most important place, as early as the twelfth century the king of beasts was assumed as an appropriate emblem for arms of Dukes. The leopard as the emblem for Arms of Lords.

"That the Fitches were warriors of brave heart and strong arm is proven by the Fitch Coat of Arms, for the chevron betokens achievement of important trusts, and was given only to military leaders of great valor whose courage and prowess could be depended on in battle.

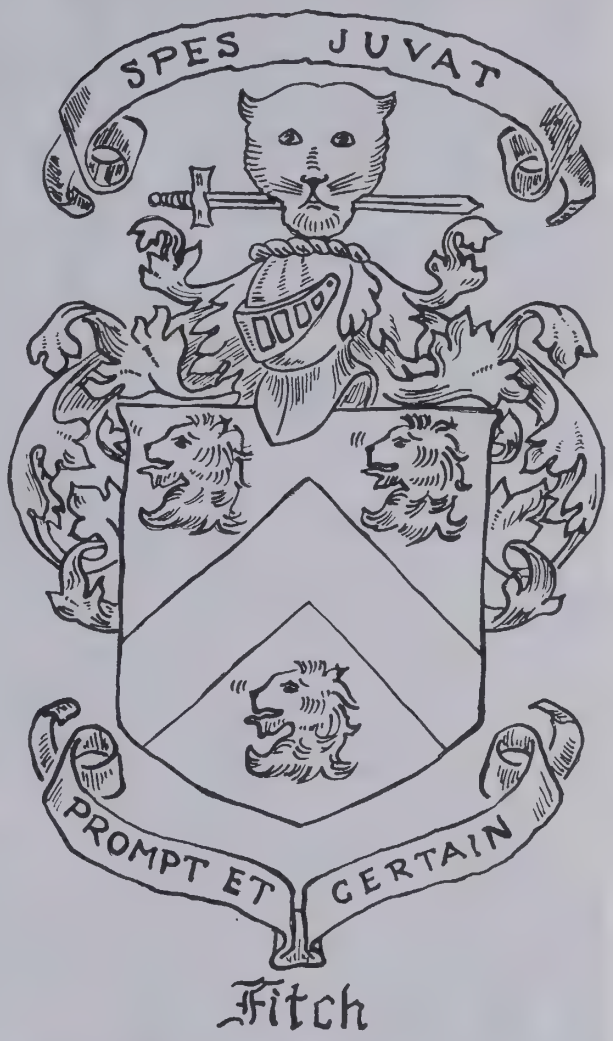
"The heraldic wreath is made up from the first two colors of the armorial bearings - green and yellow or gold. The wreath forms a support for the crest, a leopard's face of gold. This means that the head is yellow, borne on the wreath without any part of the neck showing - full faced.

"'In his mouth a sword proper', means that the sword is thrust through the mouth. The hilt of the sword is ready; this betokens 'strength and boldness with hardiness.'"



Alice Nathalia Beers, Jennie's youngest child, patriotically dressed for a school program in about 1900, at age 16. As an adult, Alice attended Reunions and wrote down her aunts and uncles' stories, thereby giving us much of what we know about early Fitch life.

The Fitch Coat of Arms





Joan Gladbach, Allen Fitch and James Moudy preparing to play crocquet at the 1927 Fitch Family Reunion.

1932 Fitch Reunion at Amos Fitch's Home in DeKalb County , Indiana



1 David Fitch
2 Ivan Fitch
3 Harry Wert
4 Nancy (Mrs. Ivan) Fitch
5 Margaret (Mrs. Rolland Fitch
6 Iolene Gloyd
7 Ollie Fitch
7a Marie F. Houser
8 Arthur Houser
9 Bert Centennial Fitch
10 Marguerette F. Wert
11 Rolland Fitch
12 Gladys Fitch
12a Pearl F. Gladbach
13 Kenneth Beers
14 John B. Fitch
15 Forrest Fitch
16 Otis Gloyd
17 Jake Kell
18 Elsie Kell
19 Rawles Moudy
20 Amos Fitch
21 Richard Houser
22 Bess F. Kell
23 Harvey Fitch
24 Audrey Hursh
25 Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch
26 Belle Fitch
27 Emma F. Hartzell
28 Nina F. Emrick
29 Sarah F. Stratton
30 Cecil F. McComb
31 Fitelia F. Gloyd
32 Ida Alice F. Mason
33 Erma F. More
34 Helen F. Hawver
35 Stella Gloyd
36 Verma F. Smith
37 David Davis
38 Enid Davis
39 Phyllis McComb
40 Elaine Houser
41 Mary Belle Hawver
42 Robert Gloyd
43 Joan Houser
44 Helen H. Hawver
45 Arvilla (Mrs. Otis) Gloyd

Photo taken by Kenneth Beers. Other photos of this reunion are available.





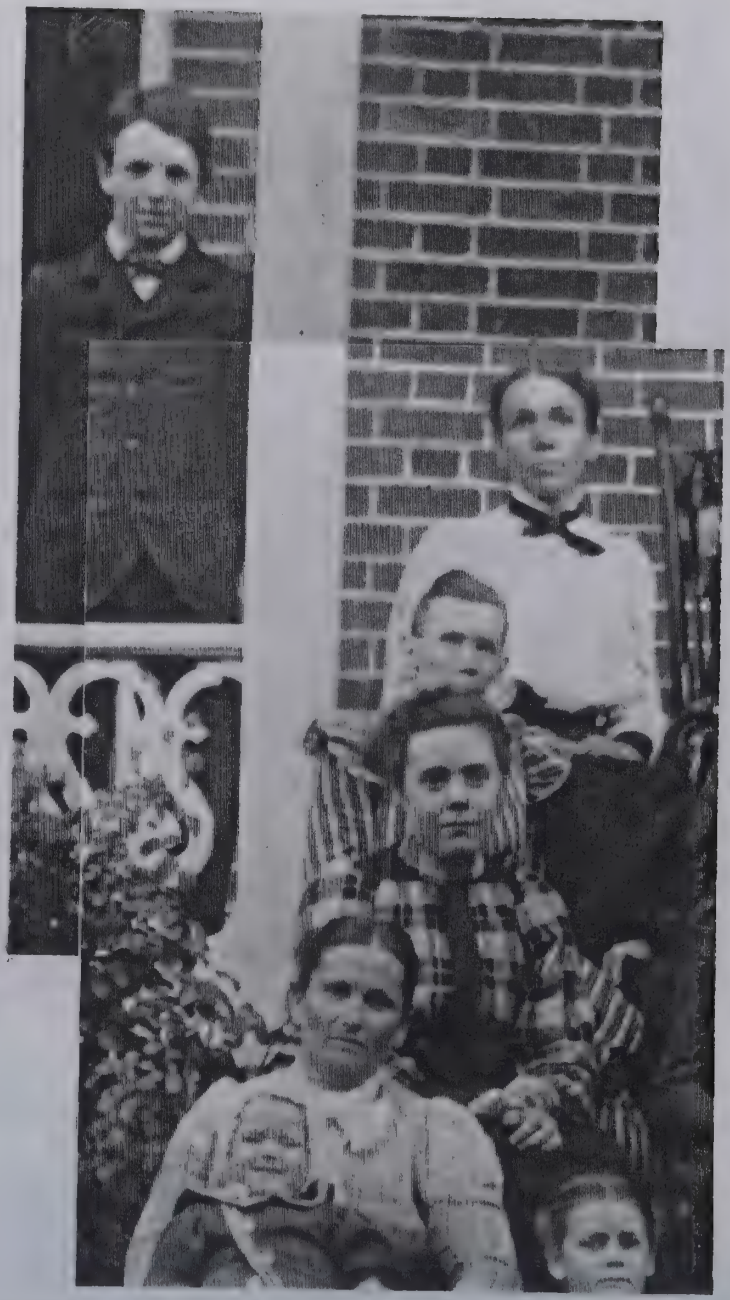
Four Generations of Fitches: Sarah DeLong Fitch (L) with her son, Perry Fitch (R), her grandson, William S. Fitch (standing) and her great grandson, Victor W. Fitch in late 1893 or early 1894. (We're looking for more inter-generational photos, new and old, for another Newsletter feature. See back page for address)



Looking south in bustling downtown Huntertown, Indiana, sometime before automobiles made their presence known. The back of the photo reads: " Mercantile...Old hotel in back. Blacksmith/old gas station. 1st street turn on to go west." Does any one recognize landmarks or remember more about Huntertown's past?







At Amos Fitch's home. Date unknown. (Enlarged photos, counter-clockwise from above) (L - R) Harvey Fitch and Jerome Gloyd; (Bottom to Top) Two children (?), Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch, Della Gloyd, Nancy (Mrs. Amos) Fitch, Sarah Fitch Stratton; boy beside post (?) NOTE: These identifications have been made after the fact and may not be correct. Your assistance would be appreciated in completing and correctly identifying our Fitch kin in these photos.



(From Top, L - R) Sarah DeLong Fitch, Francelia Fitch Fair, Francis (Mrs. Mathias) Fitch, Fitelia Fitch Gloyd, ?, ?, Stella Gloyd (Can anyone identify the unknown young ladies?)



(From Top, L - R) Otis Gloyd, Rolland Fitch, Emma Belle (Mrs. David) Fitch and Amos Fitch



(L - R) Marguerite Stratton, Marguerette Fitch, Helen Stratton & Marie Fitch



(L - R) Amos Fitch, David Fitch and Mathias Fitch

A Gathering of Perry's and Fitelia's Children

(circa 1907, location unknown)



Identification of Above Photo



1 Pearl Fitch (P)
2 ?
3 Otis Gloyd (F)
4 Della Gloyd (F)
5 Kelsey Fitch (P)
6 George Fitch (P)
7 Homer Bowser
8 Norma Gloyd Moudy (F)
9 Claude Fitch (P)
10 Ethiel Badiac
11 William Fitch (P)
12 Stella Gloyd (F)
13 Frank Fitch (P)
14 ?
15 Victor W. Fitch (P)
16 Fred W. Fitch (P)
17 ?
18 ?

(P) = Perry Descendant; (F) = Fitelia Descendant

Does anyone know why Homer Bowser and Ethel Badiac are in this photo? Can anyone identify the ?'s above? Probably in Perry's or Fitelia's families.



The gravestone of Nathaniel's mother, Sarah Keeler Fitch, in Fitch's Cemetary, Falls Township, Pennsylvania. Born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, on June 26, 1785, Sarah was the daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr., a trumpeter in the Revolutionary Army in Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade of Connecticut. This connection qualifies lineal Fitch descendants for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Can You Identify Any of These Fitches?

Make a Xerox copy of the photo(s) on which you can write the names of the people you know and send it to Bill Cassell.



We have a number of photos from this Reunion, none of which have any identification on them. Can anyone tell us the year and location of this photo? Note the gingerbread on the porch roof in the upper right. Other photos from this Reunion include Amos, Harvey, David, Ida, Fitelia and Francelia and a host of other Fitches.

Same Reunion as page 14
which states it was 1932 at Amos'



Children at a Fitch Reunion, possibly in the early 1930's. Does anyone recognize themselves or a parent among these charming Fitch children, know the photo's date or location? Note the chairs inside the building to the rear.



Carolyn Kell's High School Graduation Photo



Carolyn Kell Davis (age 93), the 2nd oldest member of the Fitch family



Sister M. Alma Louise, C.S.C (Mary Louise Fitch), past family historian

A Hearty Fitch Thank You To:

Betty and Warren Fitch (and their extended family) and Carolyn Davis for all the work that they did to make the Reunion a success.

All of you who sent me old photos or Reunion photos and/or helped to identify people in those photos.

Those who have given their financial support since the last Newsletter - - Phyllis R. Brown, Lucille Cassell, Sr. M. Alma Louise, James B. Shaffer, Bud McComb, Christina Scofield, Carolyn Davis, Suzy Enyeart, Derek Lyon, William D. Fitch, Bob Beers, Elaine Kirbach, Barbara Hulsizer, Susan Bowling, Carl, Richard and Joan Schafer, Evlyn and Bob Gloyd, Helen F. Silha, Hazel Hardwich, Gail and Jim Johnston, Richard Houser, Ken and Linda Moudy, Bill and Bernadine Cassell, Eileen Fitch, Richard and Phyllis Fitch, Alice Reimann, Joan Dove, Charlotte Wuepper, Mary Belle Brogren, Alice Deck, Barbara Ann Kelham, Sara Fair Sleeper and Francia Mann plus all the unnamed Fitch descendants who sent checks to Betty Fitch to support the Reunion and those who gave $278 in cash when the hat was passed at the Reunion

Those who contributed funds in memory of:

Ruth Bowlby Schafer
Mel and Ida Fitch Mason
Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers
Alice Beers Kephart

The "Save the Homestead" Committee of Maggie Vegeler, William H. Fitch, Bill Cassell and Phyllis Fitch. (You can see that this is a small, elite group just waiting for volunteers. Contact the Bill Cassell for more information.)

And all of you who have sent me notes and called with encouragement. Thank you so very much!!



The sources of my involvement with Fitch history: My mother, Lucille Cassell (seated), who thoughtfully saved boxes of old family photos and documents from her mother, aunts and uncles and my sister, Sandra Peterson, who carefully sorted through a household to locate the family materials for me. That's me, on the right, at the 1994 Reunion.
Bill Cassell

To reach your Fitch Family Historian, write or call:

Bill Cassell 617-862-6172
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

We're still looking for family recollections, artifacts and photos (esp. of Charles Fitch's family and intergenerational ones like that on page 15).
We also need your support in saving the Homestead. And, last but not least, we need funding for future Newsletters, photo duplication, etc. Please make checks payable to: Bill Cassell



Leandee 1885 - 1917 Born Ft. Wayne
Harold 1888 - Born, Wichita
Helen [illegible] 1892 -
Marquerite Nobles 1896

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton's Photo Collection

Husband [illegible] born [illegible]

Courtesy of Dawn Stratton

These 73 photos are being shared in the hopes of identifying Fitch relatives.

Among these and another 16 photos from the collection, we believe that we have identified relatives of at least 4 of the original Fitch children (Sarah, Amos, Jennie and Fitelia), circa 1870 to 1885, with a few from later dates. This leads us to believe that there may be other relatives among the unidentified photos.

Whatever appears on the backs of the numbered photos is provided to assist you in figuring out who these folks are. Anything in " "'s indicates a handwritten notation. An identification followed by a question mark (?) indicates Dawn's or my tentative identification, which requires confirmation.

Please do what you can to help us. You may write on these copies and return them to me; or you may keep the copies, make a list of those you can identify and send the list to me. Note with a question mark any tentative identifications.

Many, many thanks for your help.

Send replies to: Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

617-862-6172

1. Sarah Fitch Stratton?
Studio Grand
Cor. Broadway & Mercantile Place
Los Angeles, Cal.



2. Sarah [illegible] ? She went to Valparaiso University

J.W. McLelle[illegible] Photograph Studio
Gallery, Main St.
Valparaiso, Ind.



Della Ghoyd ?



3. _____

Barrow's
Ft. Wayne, Ind.



4. _____



5. _____

C.S. Walcott, Artist Photographer
Coldwater, Mich.

6. [illegible]

J.W. McLellen's Photograph Studio
Gallery, Main St.
Valparaiso, Ind.





7. _____

J. Martin, Photographer
North Manchester, Ind.



8. _____

9. _____



11. Robert S. Nobles?

12. _____

10. _____
E.T. Bowdle, Proprietor
C.J. Young, Operator

E.T. BOWDLE, PROPRIETOR. C. J. YOUNG, OPERATOR.



13. Harold F. Stratton?

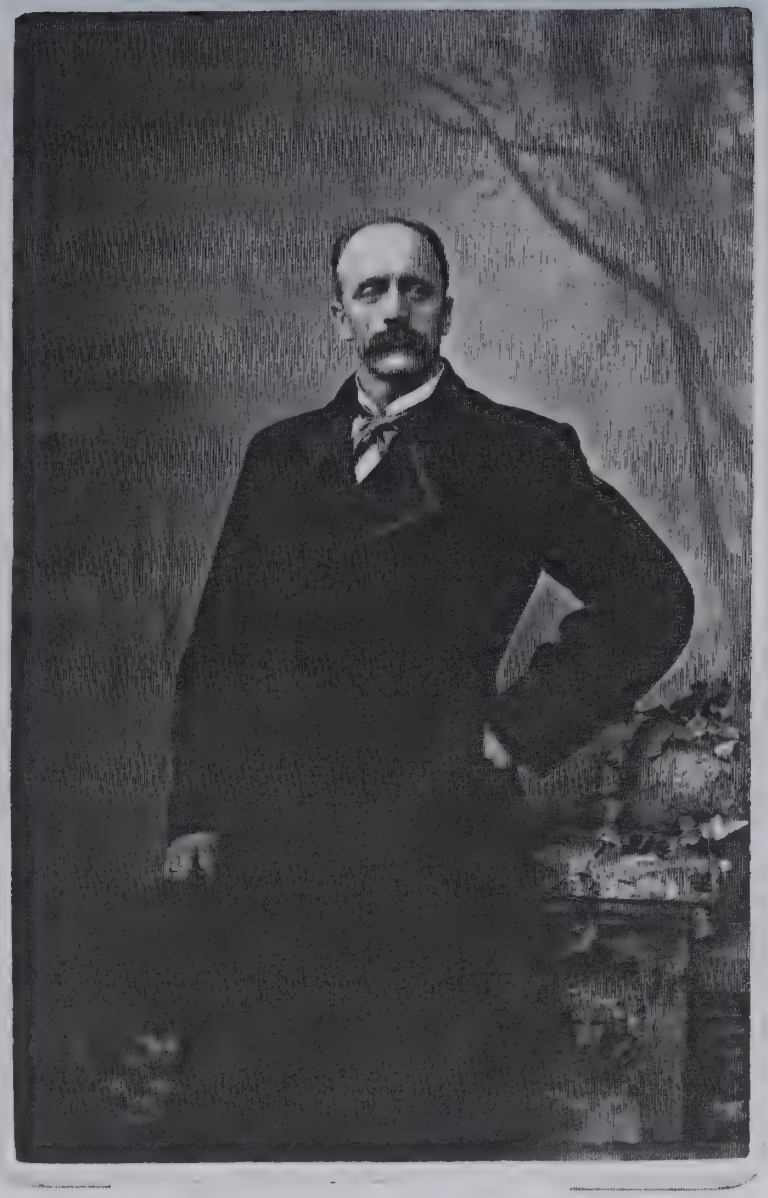


14. Leander E. Stratton



15. _____

Barrow's Art Gallery
18 West Berry St.
Fort Wayne, Ind.



16. _____
"Compliments of yours truly,
C.L.Remmel (sic)
May 1st 1882"



17. _____
[same background as 16 & 17]

18 - Burgess Fitch



18. Burgess Fitch?
[same background as 16 & 17]
Shoaff
[Ft. Wayne, Ind.]



19. _____
Shoaff
[Ft. Wayne, Ind.]

21. _____
Steele's Grand Central Gallery
Jackson, Mich.



22. _____
Jones
(This Photo $2 per doz.)
Fort Wayne, Ind.



Jones

This Photo $2 per doz.)

Fort Wayne, I



20. _____

23. Alice Nathalia Beers
"Baby Beers (16 months) Alice Nathalia"



24. _____
"16 months old"
R.H. Mann, Photographer
Virginia, Ill



25. _____
Indiana College Studio
Wabash, Indiana



26. Levi Beers
Indiana College Fine Arts and Photography, Wabash



Levi Beers

27. Leroy F. Beers?
F.M. Lewis
Clarion, PA



28. Margarita Beers?
A.S. Kilby's Photographic Art Studio
Wabash, Ind.



29. Mark Stratton (standing)
Ruth H. Bewley
"August/Sept. 1914





30. _____



31. _____

Barrow's
18 West Berry St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.



32. _____

HOVER
Fort Wayne, Ind.



33. _____

Hover
Ft. Wayne, Ind.



34. _____

Hamilton Art Gallery
Fort Wayne, Ind.



35. _____

Jones
Ft. Wayne, Ind.



36. _____

HOVER
Fort Wayne, Ind.



37. _____

Shoaff's Photographic Art Gallery
(Keystone Block)
Cor. Columbia & Calhoun Sts.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

38. _____
Shoaff





Leander Stratton

39. Lee Stratton?
Wharton's City Gallery
Wabash, Ind.



40. _____
Sam. Moore, Photographer,
Wabash, Ind.



41. _____
F.E. Williams, Photographer
Market St., Wabash, Ind.

42. _____
[Same chair and bkgrd as 43]



43. _____
[Same chair and bkgrd as 42]



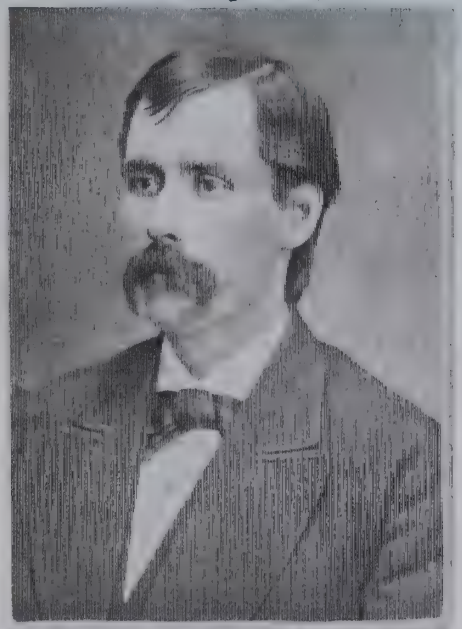


44. _____
John Wharton
South Side Canal Street
Wabash, Ind.



45. Kenneth F. Beers
Indiana College of Arts and
Photography
Wabash, Ind.

46. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.





47. Perry Fitch?



48. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



49. _____



50. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



51. Amos Fitch?



52. _____



53. _____
Hartley
309 West Madison St., Chicago

54. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valpariso, Ind.



55. Sarah Elizabeth Fitch
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



56. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



57. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



58. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



59. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



60. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



61. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.





62. _____
M. Boyce, Photographer
Opera Building
Tuscola, Ills.



63. _____
Indiana College of Fine Arts and
Photography
Wabash, Indiana



64. _____
Clayton & Barrows
(Successors to Palmer & Clayton)
18 West Berry St.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

65. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.





66. _____
Hartsock & Hester's Photographic
Studio
Union Block
Van Wert, Ohio



67. _____
A.S. Kilby's Photographic Art Studio
Wabash, Ind.



68. _____
Chapman's Photographic Gallery
Crawfordsville, Ind.
(Ivorytypes, Messotints, Rembrandts,
Improved Bon Ton, Cameo Bon Ton
Pictures)

69. _____
J.W. McLellen's Photograph Gallery
Main St., Valparaiso, Ind.



Same photo in
Lloyd & Fitch
collection

tch



70. _____



71. _____

_____

_____

D.S. Low Millinery
No. 11



72. _____



73. Levi Beers
W.H. Van Dyke & Son
Edinboro Pa.

9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173
January 28, 1993

Dear Betty,

Thank you so very much for your supportive and informative letter and the Fitch materials that you sent to me. Your present and past involvement indicates that you might be interested in where our newsletter project stands.

We sent out over 200 newsletters, including some that went out later as we received missing names and addresses. 21 were returned as undeliverable (13 of which were from Perry's family).

Ten cousins, excluding Carolyn Davis and Sister Mary Louise (who have been involved from the outset), responded in some manner, many just to say "thanks".

Sue Ann Fitch and Francia Fitch Mann expressed a particular interest in Fitch history (i.e. more than appreciation for the newsletter).

Barbara Hulsizer sent copies of many Fitch photos, including some of Sarah, the Fairs, 1933 Reunion, the sisters in the 1920's and numerous "unknowns".

Elizabeth Newell sent a very nice note and a $50.00 donation to the Fitch Reunion Fund.

You sent a wonderful collection of material including copies of two old Fitch deeds, a 1974 list of Fitch items in the Fort Wayne-Allen County Historical Museum, copies of pages from a 1942 book that describe the Fitch and Gloyd/Vandolah mills, copies of pages from Sarah E. Fitch's account book (kept by Mathias from 1901 to 1909. More on Betty's letter later.

Carolyn sent a number of reunion photos and related materials.

Sister Mary Louise sent the genealogical records of the family.

Our name and address lists need to be updated to include all adult descendents (after we get those, we can update the genealogical records). Using the Fitch Family History, with its updated pages, I developed a list of our missing cousins in Perry's family and sent it with a personal letter to anyone in that family for whom I had what appeared to be a valid address.

I will do similar mailings to the other families, unless someone has a better idea.

The next step in eliciting information from our cousins may be a bit more directive than our broadside request for help in the newsletter. We need to know who in

the family might help us, even if those individuals did not yet volunteer. A personal request to someone for specific help may prompt our cousins to pitch in. You implied as much in your letter, where you noted various relatives who might have some of Nathaniel and Sarah's possessions. Your notes are a great starting point for us.

For example:

Who might have unpublished stories or recollections of Nathaniel, Sarah and their family?

Who might have Fitch photographs of the early years or of early reunions? What happened to Ivan Fitch's photographs or who in the family might know? Who might know the location of the two portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah that are printed in the Fitch book?

(Prints of your photographs of the sewing machine, music box, carding mill, mill stone, etc. are included in the documents that I received from Mary Louise. What we are missing are old photos of people and places.)

Who might know the last known location of the Civil War flag or other Fitch memorabilia?

Who might be a good person to mark up a map, showing the locations of homes, mills, etc? (I will have a topographical map of the area soon. Would it be possible for you to get copies of survey maps, including the one from 1880 from the library?)

Could you give some thought to who might be able and, hopefully, inclined to help us, if personally asked, with the questions above and/or in general? (A long list of possible sources with the best leads noted would be better than a short list.)

While I would be pleased to write specific letters and make phonecalls to designated cousins in search of information and help, there may be connections that you have out there that would be more effective. I hesitate to ask, however, since you, Carolyn and Mary Louise have done more than your share already. I believe that Sue Ann, Francia and I should do the research, if at all possible. Unfortunately, none of us live in the Fort Wayne area.

I have written a similar letter to Carolyn and to Mary Louise, updating them and asking for their help.

I am embarrassed to admit that I can't place you in the family tree. Based on the lists that I have prepared of Perry's, Mathias' and Harvey's families, there must be more than 300 adult descendents, plus spouses and minor children. Where do you fit in?

On a personal note, our recent addition to the family tree, Alex, was seven months old just a few days ago and is a delight to be with. I'm so glad that I decided to take a couple years off from work to be a full-time father. That 2-toothed smile is worth its weight in gold. Maybe this summer Bernadine and Alex can join me for a visit to Fort Wayne, and we can get better acquainted.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassel

11/15/93

Dear Betty,

Enclosed is a list of Mathias' descendants.

Thanks for your help in updating the list.

Bill Cassell

Nathanie

Each ind
- - - i
-do- mes

MATHIA

			Birthdate	Place of Birth	Marriage Date	Date of Death
Nathaniel Fi			7/ 7/1806	Falls Twnshp PA		1/ 1/1877
& Sarah Eli:			5/29/1818	Dayton OH Vicinity	6/ 4/1840	9/ 2/1908
Mathias F:			1/16/1843	Perry Twnshp IN		12/10/1923
& Frances			2/19/1843	Perry Twnshp IN	12/ 1/1867	5/23/1923
Lucy Fi'			9/15/1868	Perry Twnshp IN		9/27/1868
Schuyle:			12/24/1869	Perry Twnshp IN		4/17/1952
& Leah L. Pepple			4/ 3/1871	Butler Twnshp IN	1/ 5/1893	__/__/____
Rowene Fitch	- - -		3/ 3/1894	Perry Twnshp IN		10/27/1986
& Carl H. Hartnett (Divorced)	- - -		5/ 5/1892	Seattle WA	3/12/1913	__/__/____
& Clarence T. Bunker	- - -		3/15/1894	St. Paul MN	3/30/1928	__/__/____
Hubert F. Hartnett	- - -		2/14/1914	Portland OR		9/ 3/1992
& Hazel C. Oie	26610 - 137th Ave. S.E.	Kent WA 98042	3/ 5/1916	Kent WA	3/27/1943	
James H. Hartnett	P.O.Box 805	Hanalei HI 96714	12/20/1946	Seattle WA		
& Sandra L. Gaudrault (Divorced)			12/30/1948	Boston MA	8/ 6/1971	
& Diana Barth	-do-		12/16/1959	Biddleford ME	9/24/1992	
Julia M. Hartnett	28012 Ridgebrook	Farmington Hills MI 98334	8/ 7/1949	Seattle WA		
& Frank P. Coen	-do-		1/19/1948	Seattle WA	4/22/1972	
Carrie J. Coen	-do-		12/25/1981	Cleveland OH		
Laurie J. Coen	-do-		6/11/1983	Cleveland OH		
Robert Fitch	- - -		10/30/1898	Butler Twnshp IN		11/31/1954
& Stella Benson	- - -		11/19/1894	Pendleton OR	6/21/1923	11/26/1991
Bette J. Fitch	2937 Banner Rd. S.E.	Port Orchard WA 98366	3/ 5/1924	Seattle WA		
& Albert K. Lyon	-do-		5/ 1/1920	Salt Lake City UT	3/26/1943	
Kathey I. Lyon	5136 McConnell Ave.	Terrace BC V8G4X1 CANADA	3/30/1945	Seattle WA		
& David A. Smith	-do-		1/ 5/1938	St. Maries ID	9/14/1968	
Virginia R. Fitch	- - -		12/31/1927	Seattle WA		6/13/1930
Merlin F. Fitch	- - -		12/31/1901	Butler Twnshp IN		2/13/1980
& Eunice L. Balch	625 Okanogen Ave, #421	Wenatache WA 98801	9/20/1908	Malaga WA	8/28/1927	
Robert E. Fitch	13262 S.E. 261st St.	Kent WA 98042	10/17/1928	Wenatchee WA		
& Valerie Balsamo (divorced)			3/27/1927	Kempstead NY	6/20/1954	
& Madeline E. Dahl	-do-		4/ 5/1938	Butte MT	7/12/1974	
John R. Fitch			2/21/1956	Oakland CA		
& Irita Nelson (Divorced)	11928 NE 81st Circle #28	Kirkland WA 98033			8/__/1985	
Selena G. Fitch	-do-		3/29/1985	Seattle WA		
Diandra M. Fitch	-do-		3/16/1987	Kirkland WA		
Linelle Fitch			2/ 3/1959	Seattle WA		
John S. Fitch	560 Fort Gate Rd.	Nordland WA 98358	6/ 6/1934	Wenatchee WA		
& Billie M. Rochelle	-do-		7/24/1936	Portland OR	8/18/1957	
James A. Fitch	1277 Rand Way	Superior CO 80027	12/20/1960	Seattle WA		
& Cathy Chang	-do-		8/27/1963	Redwood City CA	10/10/1987	
Cheryl A. Fitch	27002 48th Pl.S.#I-102	Kent WA 98032	10/19/1962	Seattle WA		
& Marc Blackburn	-do-		3/29/1963	Los Angeles CA	12/14/1985	
John B. Fitch	- - -		6/23/1872	Perry Twnshp IN		2/20/1947
& Rosa B. Hollopeter	- - -		5/29/1874	Cedar Creek Twnshp IN	3/17/1898	1/15/1953
Grace Fitch	- - -		3/29/1899	Perry Twnshp IN		6/ 8/1970
& Charles Caple	- - -		12/ 2/1895	Culver IN	6/30/1926	10/21/1978

October 7, 1993

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch Family Reunion Address List Fitch2.wk1

Each indentation indicates another generation.
- - - in street address indicates deceased.
-do- means "ditto" or the same as the address above.

MATHIAS FITCH DESCENDENTS	Street Address	City, State & ZIP	Birthdate	Place of Birth	Marriage Date	Date of Death
Nathaniel Fitch	- - -		7/ 7/1806	Falls Twnshp PA		1/ 1/1877
& Sarah Elizabeth DeLong	- - -		5/29/1818	Dayton OH Vicinity	6/ 4/1840	9/ 2/1908
Mathias Fitch	- - -		1/16/1843	Perry Twnshp IN		12/10/1923
& Frances Vandolah	- - -		2/19/1843	Perry Twnshp IN	12/ 1/1867	5/23/1923
Lucy Fitch	- - -		9/15/1868	Perry Twnshp IN		9/27/1868
Schuyler Fitch	- - -		12/24/1869	Perry Twnshp IN		4/17/1952
& Leah L. Pepple	- - -		4/ 3/1871	Butler Twnshp IN	1/ 5/1893	__/__/____
Rowene Fitch	- - -		3/ 3/1894	Perry Twnshp IN		10/27/1986
& Carl H. Hartnett (Divorced)	- - -		5/ 5/1892	Seattle WA	3/12/1913	__/__/____
& Clarence T. Bunker	- - -		3/15/1894	St. Paul MN	3/30/1928	__/__/____
Hubert F. Hartnett	- - -		2/14/1914	Portland OR		9/ 3/1992
& Hazel C. Oie	26610 - 137th Ave. S.E.	Kent WA 98042	3/ 5/1916	Kent WA	3/27/1943	
James H. Hartnett	P.O.Box 805	Hanalei HI 96714	12/20/1946	Seattle WA		
& Sandra L. Gaudrault (Divorced)			12/30/1948	Boston MA	8/ 6/1971	
& Diana Barth	-do-		12/16/1959	Biddleford ME	9/24/1992	
Julia M. Hartnett	28012 Ridgebrook	Farmington Hills MI 98334	8/ 7/1949	Seattle WA		
& Frank P. Coen	-do-		1/19/1948	Seattle WA	4/22/1972	
Carrie J. Coen	-do-		12/25/1981	Cleveland OH		
Laurie J. Coen	-do-		6/11/1983	Cleveland OH		
Robert Fitch	- - -		10/30/1898	Butler Twnshp IN		11/31/1954
& Stella Benson	- - -		11/19/1894	Pendleton OR	6/21/1923	11/26/1991
Bette J. Fitch	2937 Banner Rd. S.E.	Port Orchard WA 98366	3/ 5/1924	Seattle WA		
& Albert K. Lyon	-do-		5/ 1/1920	Salt Lake City UT	3/26/1943	
Kathey I. Lyon	5136 McConnell Ave.	Terrace BC V8G4X1 CANADA	3/30/1945	Seattle WA		
& David A. Smith	-do-		1/ 5/1938	St. Maries ID	9/14/1968	
Virginia R. Fitch	- - -		12/31/1927	Seattle WA		6/13/1930
Merlin F. Fitch	- - -		12/31/1901	Butler Twnshp IN		2/13/1980
& Eunice L. Balch	625 Okanogen Ave, #421	Wenatache WA 98801	9/20/1908	Malaga WA	8/28/1927	
Robert E. Fitch	13262 S.E. 261st St.	Kent WA 98042	10/17/1928	Wenatchee WA		
& Valerie Balsamo (divorced)			3/27/1927	Kempstead NY	6/20/1954	
& Madeline E. Dahl	-do-		4/ 5/1938	Butte MT	7/12/1974	
John R. Fitch			2/21/1956	Oakland CA		
& Irita Nelson (Divorced)	11928 NE 81st Circle #28	Kirkland WA 98033			8/__/1985	
Selena G. Fitch	-do-		3/29/1985	Seattle WA		
Diandra M. Fitch	-do-		3/16/1987	Kirkland WA		
Linelle Fitch			2/ 3/1959	Seattle WA		
John S. Fitch	560 Fort Gate Rd.	Nordland WA 98358	6/ 6/1934	Wenatchee WA		
& Billie M. Rochelle	-do-		7/24/1936	Portland OR	8/18/1957	
James A. Fitch	1277 Rand Way	Superior CO 80027	12/20/1960	Seattle WA		
& Cathy Chang	-do-		8/27/1963	Redwood City CA	10/10/1987	
Cheryl A. Fitch	27002 48th Pl.S.#I-102	Kent WA 98032	10/19/1962	Seattle WA		
& Marc Blackburn	-do-		3/29/1963	Los Angeles CA	12/14/1985	
John B. Fitch	- - -		6/23/1872	Perry Twnshp IN		2/20/1947
& Rosa B. Hollopeter	- - -		5/29/1874	Cedar Creek Twnshp IN	3/17/1898	1/15/1953
Grace Fitch	- - -		3/29/1899	Perry Twnshp IN		6/ 8/1970
& Charles Caple	- - -		12/ 2/1895	Culver IN	6/30/1926	10/21/1978

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John A. Caple	Box 584	Syracuse IN 46567	10/10/1927 Auburn IN		
& Barbara Horn	- - -		12/15/1927 Indianapolis IN	8/25/1951	2/17/1992
Joni R. Caple	229 W. Maple Grove	Fort Wayne IN 46807	11/20/1953 LaGrange IN		
& Neal P. Colvin	-do-		7/31/1956 Fort Wayne IN	8/27/1977	
Megan R. Colvin	-do-		2/16/1980 Fort Wayne IN		
Rachel E. Colvin	-do-		11/18/1983 Fort Wayne IN		
Bernadette A. Caple	1808 N. Mountain Lake Rd.	Albion IN 46701	5/ 3/1957 Garrett IN		
& Steve R. Lawson	-do-		7/12/1952 Wolf Lake IN	8/12/1978	
Danielle R. Lawson	-do-		8/ 9/1984 Fort Wayne IN		
Eric J. Lawson	-do-		7/15/1987 Fort Wayne IN		
Leann E. Caple	P.O. Box 233	Syracuse IN 46567	9/22/1934 Cromwell IN		
& Eugene A. Culbertson (Divorced)			11/ 6/1934 Auburn IN	8/ 5/1961	
& William E. Holcomb	-do-		6/22/1922 Newcastle IN	2/15/1984	
Dean L. Culbertson	3672 E. 1300 N.	Syracuse IN 46567	5/15/1962 Kendallville IN		
David A. Culbertson	P.O. Box 233	Syracuse IN 46567	4/ 8/1964 Kendallville IN		
					12/ 9/1974
Maurice K. Fitch	- - -		10/ 9/1901 Perry Twnshp IN	6/19/1926	6/16/1952
& Lois Byerley	- - -		8/12/1903 Eel River Twnshp IN		
Bryce G. Fitch	257 E. 56th St.	Long Beach CA 90805	3/27/1927 Huntertown IN		
Noel B. Fitch	- - -		4/12/1935 Huntertown IN		__/__/1993
& Lucille Lepire (Divorced)	-do-			3/ 5/1971	
Nancy M. Fitch			12/ 9/1971		
	- - -				7/ 1/1976
Otis B. Fitch	217 So. Randolph St.	Garrett IN 46738	12/20/1904 Perry Twnshp IN	12/30/1926	
& Esther Doll	37632 May Lane	Zephyrhills FL 33541	4/28/1900 Spencerville IN		
Elsie M. Fitch	- - -		8/15/1927 Fort Wayne IN		
& Robert L. Fulk	- - -		7/15/1924 Albion IN	10/27/1951	12/12/1969
& Harold Jones	2614 59th St.	Tampa FL 33619	5/ 3/1924 Fort Discovery OH	12/26/1971	5/26/1989
Karen M. Fulk			11/24/1952 Fort Wayne IN		
& Timothy C. Lortie (Divorced)			6/29/1950	5/14/1971	
& Fred Auterson (Divorced)				5/17/1987	
Christopher A. Lortie	-do-		3/ 2/1972 Columbia City IN		
Jason R. Lortie	-do-		7/ 3/1973 Columbia City IN		
Chad M. Lortie	-do-		7/ 9/1975 Columbia City IN		
Bradley M. Lortie	-do-		9/22/1979 Columbia City IN		
Keith M. Fulk	- - -		5/ 8/1954 Fort Wayne IN		8/29/1980
Kevin M. Fulk	37632 May Lane	Zephyrhills FL 33541	1/14/1958 Kendallville IN		
Warren J. Fitch	14615 Auburn Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46845	4/15/1929 Fort Wayne IN		
& Betty L. Brown	-do-		5/18/1930 Fort Wayne IN	5/18/1930	
Cathy S. Fitch	1865 Walking Horse La.	Big Arm MT 59910	3/ 2/1952 Fort Wayne IN		
& Ricky J. Wies	P.O. Box 269	Big Arm MT 59910	11/ 1/1950 Fort Wayne IN	9/ 4/1971	
Kyle J. Wies	1865 Walking Horse La.	Big Arm MT 59910	4/19/1979 Fort Wayne IN		
Jason R. Wies	-do-		10/19/1982 Fort Wayne IN		
Carol L. Fitch	4908 S 600 E-57	Churubusco IN 46723	12/22/1953 Fort Wayne IN		
& Timothy L. Lockwood	-do-		2/20/1952 Fort Wayne IN	3/ 3/1973	
Daniel A. Lockwood	-do-		11/26/1976 Fort Wayne IN		
Jared M. Lockwood	-do-		11/21/1978 Fort Wayne IN		
Lisa M. Lockwood	-do-		9/ 6/1982 Fort Wayne IN		
John A. Fitch	131 East Gump Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46845	3/13/1955 Garrett IN		
& Amy S. Cantu	-do-		9/13/1955 Fort Wayne IN	6/21/1975	
Judy M. Fitch	-do-		7/15/1978 Dayton OH		
Jennifer A. Fitch	-do-		9/19/1980 Dayton OH		
Jeremy T. Fitch	-do-		10/27/1983 Dayton OH		
David N. Fitch	-do-		8/20/1986 Fort Wayne IN		
Larry M. Fitch	7141 Co. Rd 9A	Garrett IN 46738	2/ 3/1956 Kendallville IN		
& Mary L. Belekanic Romans	-do-		6/ 1/1952 Elyria OH	7/14/1978	
Mary K. Romans	-do-		5/23/1972 Elyria OH		
Timothy J. Fitch	-do-		1/21/1985 Fort Wayne IN		

Katherine L. Fitch	-do-		3/15/1988 Fort Wayne IN		
Maxine J. Fitch	625 Gail Ave.	Temple Terrace FL 33617	1/28/1931 Fort Wayne IN		
& Richard L. Ober	- - -		8/ 6/1930 Garrett IN	1/14/1949	11/13/1982
Gerry L. Ober	2205 Okaloosa Ave. W.	Tampa FL 33604	8/ 6/1949 Garrett IN		
& Cynthia C. Carter	-do-		5/26/1955 Tampa FL	6/25/1983	
Phillip M. Sanchez	-do-		11/27/1976 Tampa FL		
Stephanie C. Sanchez	-do-		7/24/1978 Tampa FL		
Anthony H. Sanchez	-do-		8/ 2/1980 Tampa FL		
Richard D. Ober	-do-		3/27/1984 Tampa FL		
Randy G. Ober	-do-		4/29/1986 Tampa FL		
Lydia J Ober	-do-		3/ 8/1989 Tampa FL		
Daniel L. Ober	-do-		8/13/1993 Tampa FL		
Susan J. Ober	405 Park Ridge Ave.	Temple Terrace FL 33617	5/25/1954 Garrett IN		
& David E. Furlough	-do-		6/27/1954 Tampa FL	12/15/1973	
Ryan L. Furlough	-do-		9/10/1986 Tampa FL		
Teresa M. Ober	713 Regent Circle	Branden FL 33511	2/17/1964 Columbus OH		
& James B. Wortman	-do-		7/25/1953 St. Louis MO	4/18/1992	
Sharon L. Ober	606 Courtney Dr.	Temple Terrace FL 33617	2/17/1964 Columbus OH		
& Charles W. Whitehead	-do-		2/ 2/1958 Tampa FL	7/26/1986	
Rachel L. Whitehead	-do-		1/30/1988 Tampa FL		
Walter V. Fitch	- - -		3/24/1874 Perry Twnshp IN		1/ 2/1902
Florence B. Fitch	- - -		5/10/1875 Perry Twnshp IN		7/ 9/1942
& Frederick J. Kell	- - -		6/30/1872 Perry Twnshp IN	4/10/1900	8/__/1959
Carolyn Kell	417 Dalgren Ave.	Fort Wayne IN 46805	6/ 8/1901 Perry Twnshp IN		
& Clarence P. Davis	- - -		11/28/1892 Monroe IN	6/ 9/1923	3/31/1965
Enid Davis	2721 Luther Dr. #10	Ames IA 50010	12/17/1924 Fort Wayne IN		
& Walter Honeick, Jr. (Divorced)			5/17/1925 Fort Wayne IN	7/17/1943	
Gary W. Honeick	224 Russell Ave.	Ames IA 50010	9/20/1944 Fort Wayne IN		
& Sheryl L. Hall (Divorced)			3/ 4/____ Des Moines IA	9/ 1/1970	
& Julia D. Mohr	-do-		8/24/1959 Creston IA	7/26/1980	
Aren J. Honeick	-do-		5/12/1974 Ames IA		
Alena M. Honeick	-do-		12/30/1976 Ames IA		
Steven G. Honieck	224 Russell Ave.	Ames IA 50010	6/ 1/1981 Ames IA		
Gale L. Honeick	R.R. #2, Box 82	Ames IA 50010	9/27/1946 Fort Wayne IN		
& Donald L. Brice	-do-		9/28/1945 Boone IA	8/21/1965	
Danette R. Brice	1216 South G Ave.	Nevada IA 50301	7/ 8/1966 Ames IA		
& Lyle P. Sonderoth	-do-		4/12/1957 Carroll IA		
Jessica C. Sonderoth	-do-		6/13/1992 Brookhaven MS		
Christopher J. Brice	RR 1 Box 211	Nevada IA 50201	10/19/1967 Ames IA		
& Julie A. Dahl	-do-		9/13/1970 Boone IA	9/26/1992	
Kimberly D. Brice	1518 Harding	Ames IA 50010	1/27/1970 Ames IA		
& Scott R. Maurer	-do-		5/ 8/1973 DesMoines IA		
Morgan A. Maurer	-do-		6/24/1992 DesMoines IA		
David E. Davis	409 Dalgren Ave.	Fort Wayne IN 46805	4/ 7/1926 Fort Wayne IN		
& Sharon L. Willig	-do-		8/19/1932 Fort Wayne IN	6/21/1952	
Walter K. Davis	- - -		5/29/1953 Fort Wayne IN		5/30/1953
Karl V. Davis	1244 W. Rudisill Blvd.	Fort Wayne IN 46807	8/12/1954 Fort Wayne IN		
& Maureen D. Frank	-do-		9/ 1/1956 Fort Wayne IN	10/ 2/1976	
Natalie C. Davis	-do-		7/22/1982 Washington DC		
Amanda C. Davis	-do-		11/13/1985 Washington DC		
Caitlin M. Davis	-do-		5/ 8/1987 Washington DC		
Kelsey L. Davis	-do-		9/ 2/1992 Fort Wayne IN		
Kathryn C. Davis	100 Lane 375	Big Otter Lake IN 46737	4/ 2/1958 Fort Wayne IN		
& David A. Samaniego (Divorced)			_____ _____	11/11/1978	
& Lee A. Seeger	-do-		5/13/1957 Fremont IN	7/26/1986	
Hiram A. Samaniego	-do-		6/22/1981 Fort Wayne IN		

Kevan R. Davis	3920 Maple Grove Ave.	Fort Wayne IN 46806	8/20/1962 Fort Wayne IN		
& Rose Mangos	-do-		6/ 6/1959 Fort Wayne IN	5/21/1989	
Nathaniel R. Davis	-do-		9/26/1991 Fort Wayne IN		
Karolyn A. Davis	915 Tennessee Ave. #1	Fort Wayne IN 46805	8/ 5/1969 Fort Wayne IN		
& Robert M. Dillman	-do-		7/ 7/1970 Fort Wayne IN	6/19/1993	
Sharon L. Davis	15622 Canyon Ridge Rd.	Leo IN 46765	12/28/1928 Fort Wayne IN		
& Alexander Jokay	-do-		11/ 8/1927 Komarom Czechoslovakia	9/11/1954	
Alex M. Jokay	3550 Lake Shore Dr. #908	Chicago IL 60657	10/26/1961 Fort Wayne IN		
Nicholas B. Jokay	15523 Meith St.	Fortville IN 46040	9/ 5/1963 Fort Wayne IN		
& Michelle D. Hale	-do-		2/24/1967 Chicago IL	8/29/1992	
Sarah R. Davis	9572 Thompson Creek Rd.	Applegate OR 97530	2/ 5/1938 Fort Wayne IN		
& Darrell R. Monroe (divorce)			6/ 7/1938 Fort Wayne IN	11/21/1959	
& Ronald W. Bailey	-do-		11/ 4/1936 Muncie IN	11/12/1966	
Rebecca L. Monroe	P.O. Box 3762	Homer AK 99603	2/ 5/1961 Fort Wayne IN	7/19/1980	
& Gregore C. Brett (Divorced)					
Bryan J. Monroe	5020 S.W. Menlo	Beaverton OR 97005	9/22/1962 Fort Wayne IN		
& Irene P. Mayer	-do-		7/30/1964 Redwood City CA	10/14/1989	
Rolland J. Bailey	1-503-579-1402	_____ OR	1/ 9/1959 Fort Wayne IN		
Mark C. Bailey	9572 Thompson Creek Rd.	Applegate OR 97530	5/20/1967 Fort Wayne IN		
Sarah E. Kell	1518 Glenwood	Fort Wayne IN 46805	7/12/1902 Perry Twnshp IN		
& Earl E. DeBolt	- - -		2/13/1896 Washburn IL	6/ 7/1934	5/19/1957
Margaret E. DeBolt	-do-		10/ 5/1936 Clearwater FL		
& Donald W. Lehman (Divorced)			5/ 1/1929	5/ 5/1972	
Frederick J. Kell	16823 Kell Rd.	Huntertown IN 46748	3/16/1904 Perry Twnshp In		
& Elsie C. Aden	- - -		12/ 1/1903 Gibson City IL	11/15/1930	5/ 1/1987
Ann L. Kell	16828 Kell Rd.	Huntertown IN 46748	5/18/1932 Fort Wayne IN		
& Russell Lyons, Jr.	-do-		3/28/1930 Hicksville OH	5/18/1952	
Diane E. Lyons	510 S. Washington	Tiffin OH 44883	9/13/1953 Auburn IN		
& Rev. Paul. R. Barnes	-do-		11/ 3/1955 Canton OH	5/16/1975	
David P. Barnes	-do-		6/ 8/1981 Cincinnati OH		
Jonathon R. Barnes	-do-		4/ 4/1985 Tiffin OH		
Alan B. Lyons	3018 Broken Bough	Abilene TX 79606	8/26/1954 Auburn IN		
& Diane Sanfacon	-do-		11/ 7/1960 Rochester NH	12/20/1988	
Joshua A. Lyon	-do-		11/26/1989 Abilene TX		
Jason C. Lyon	-do-		11/25/1991 Abilene TX		
Perry L. Lyons	4116 Cadena Lane	Fort Wayne 46815	4/18/1957 Auburn IN		
& Denise L. Alexander	-do-		10/ 8/1957 Fort Wayne IN	8/26/1978	
Jennifer Lyons	-do-		11/19/1984 Atlanta GA		
Kristin L. Lyons	-do-		9/26/1986 Columbia SC		
Deborah S. Gulick	1428 N. Creyts Rd.	Lansing MI 48917	5/23/1957 Garrett IN		
& Lloyd A. Knowles	-do-		9/ 8/1946 Cleveland OH	7/21/1979	
Derek A. Knowles	-do-		2/25/1986 Lansing MI		
Cody J. Knowles	-do-		4/20/1988 Lansing MI		
Richard R. Gulick, Jr.	3391 Ridge Park Blvd.	Broadview Hts OH 44147	5/23/1957 Garrett IN		
& Susan R. Ullman	-do-		6/25/1954 Cleveland OH	6/14/1980	
Matthew R. Gulick	-do-		12/19/1982 Cleveland OH		
Timothy B. Gulick	-do-		8/17/1984 Cleveland OH		
Jennifer S. Gulick	-do-		2/ 5/1986 Cleveland OH		
Mark C. Gulick	-do-		8/ 4/1990 Cleveland OH		
Victor J. Kell	- - -		12/10/1933 Perry Twnshp IN		1/28/1934
Jacob F. Kell	16827 Kell Rd. R.R. #1	Huntertown IN 46748	7/28/1935 Perry Twnshp IN		
& Eula M. Freeman	-do-		2/10/1931 Garrett IN	10/12/1963	
Lisa A. Kell	-do-		10/11/1964 Fort Wayne IN		
Lana S. Kell	7855 E 750 S	Hamilton IN 46742	9/ 2/1966 Fort Wayne IN		
& Mark E. Frey	-do-		9/18/1959 Auburn IN	12/ 9/1988	
Shannon R. Frey	-do-		5/ 4/1979 Auburn IN		

Ryan M. Frey	-do-		2/ 6/1982 Auburn IN		
Matthew R. Frey	-do-		11/13/1989 Angola IN		
Eric L. Kell	16827 Kell Rd. R.R. #1	Huntertown IN 46748	11/12/1968 Fort Wayne IN		
Nathan A. Kell	-do-		1/25/1970 Fort Wayne IN		
Mary E. Kell	10034 Johnson Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46818	2/ 2/1907 Perry Twnshp IN		
& Dewey S. Arnold	- - -		10/19/1900 Lake Twnshp IN	10/27/1935	3/24/1984
Mark L. Arnold	10034 Johnson Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46818	4/25/1938 Fort Wayne IN		
& Junice L. Sensibaugh	-do-		1/ 9/1956 Peru IN	5/22/1987	
Martha E. Arnold	- - -		7/ 9/1940 Fort Wayne IN		3/25/1941
Aaron R. Arnold	7536 E. Lincoln Way	Columbia City IN 46725	8/21/1942 Fort Wayne IN		
& Ann Marie E. Hardiek	-do-		8/13/1942 Fort Wayne IN	9/15/1962	
Anita M. Arnold	7536 E. Lincoln Way	Columbia City IN 46725	8/30/1967 Fort Wayne IN		
& William E. Gray, Jr. (Divorced)			5/16/1966 Birmingham AL	2/ 7/1987	
Jeremy K. Gray	-do-		12/17/1987 Virginia Beach VA		
Lori A. Arnold	7536 E. Lincoln Way	Columbia City IN 46725	10/ 9/1968 Fort Wayne IN		
& James G. Bushur	-do-		11/11/1966 Indianapolis IN	12/29/1990	
Eli J. Arnold	10580 Johnson Rd.	Fort Wayne IN 46818	6/10/1945 Fort Wayne IN		
& Bonnie J. Wallace	-do-		11/17/1944 Fort Wayne IN	1/ 7/1967	
Anthony A. Arnold	4666 S. US 33	Albion IN 46701	8/25/1969 Fort Wayne IN		
& Marletta J. Beck	-do-		6/ 4/1971 Whitley Cty	6/27/1992	
Thomas Kell	- - -		11/ 9/1908 Perry Twnshp IN		8/30/1910
Nathaniel Fitch	- - -		6/ 5/1877 Perry Twnshp IN		9/14/1877
Grace Fitch	- - -		11/19/1878 Perry Twnshp IN		8/18/1879
Althea C. Fitch	- - -		12/30/1880 Perry Twnshp IN		11/ 4/1930
Beatrice V. Fitch	- - -		8/ 1/1884 Perry Twnshp IN		11/15/1969
& Charles A. Leaycraft	- - -		6/26/1864 Bermuda Islands	1/ 3/1917	11/ 6/1920
Francis M. Leaycraft	5426 Olanda St.	Lynnwood CA 90262	10/17/1917 Fort Wayne IN		
& Fern E. Souders (Divorced)			3/28/1918 Bakersfield CA	_____	
& Iva F. Scott	-do-		9/14/1916 Bolivar IN	3/ 9/1952	
Hubert F. Leaycraft	776 Pacific St.	Carson CA 90745	4/ 7/1941 Wilmington CA		
& Jacqueline J. Misterka	-do-		11/ 4/1939 Brackenridge PA	6/ 2/1984	
Verda F. Leaycraft	1414 W. Carson St., #8	Torrance CA 90501	10/16/1946 Wilmington CA		
& Phillip M. Cawthon (Divorced)			9/15/1946 Springfield CO	6/15/1966	
Paulette G. Cawthon	1322 Madrid	Torrance CA 90501	11/29/1968 Long Beach CA		
& Alex __ Cobos	-do-		_____ _____	_____	
Jennifer __ Cobos	-do-		_____ _____		
Christopher __ Cobos	-do-		_____ _____		
Jacob __ Cobos	-do-		_____ _____		
Laurie J. Cawthon	611 21st St.	Gothenberg NE 69138	8/ 6/1966 San Diego CA		
& Jeffrey E. Lira	-do-		3/ 3/1965 N. Plate NE	3/ 3/1990	
Levi A. Lira	-do-		11/26/1991 Cozad NE		
Victoria Leaycraft	2610 E. Ocean Front	Newport Beach CA 92661	7/13/1921 Garrett IN		
& Don Neally	- - -		2/15/1920 Los Angeles CA	8/30/1952	7/11/1976
Victor G. Neally	15 Doheny	Laguna Niguel CA 92677	8/13/1953 Los Angeles CA		
& Lori Sherreitt	-do-		7/18/1956 La Habra CA	1/29/1983	
Scotty D. Neally	-do-		1/18/1987 Mission Viejo CA		
Christopher D. Neally	-do-		11/27/1990 Mission Viejo CA		
James C. Neally	-do-		10/22/1992 Mission Viejo CA		
Joseph C. Neally	2610 E. Ocean Front	Newport Beach CA 92661	8/29/1954 Los Angeles Cty CA		

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Special Edition - August 1995

A Letter from the Editor:

Dear Fitch Cousin,

This **Special Edition** of the Newsletter is being sent to only our Fitch kin who were born before 1930, so you are part of a very elite group.

Its purpose is to elicit family stories, photos and documents for the next Fitch Reunion Newsletter, which is scheduled for publication in late 1995.

While I would be happy to receive Fitch family stories on any subject, I am particularly interested in learning more about how Nathaniel and Sarah's descendants (through your generation) courted, learned, disciplined children, dealt with the military, worked and celebrated.

I've selected these few topics to make it a little easier for you to focus on the past and because we know something about how Nathaniel and Sarah handled these things.

The idea here is to have you use the topics and questions to help you recall and record a few stories about a few relatives and/or yourself that can be shared with others. You can write or record on audio cassettes, which I will transcribe.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Cassell

P.S. When I use "you/etc." in the questions below, I mean "you, your spouse, your parents, your grandparents, your uncles, aunts, cousins and so on. In other words, any family member of your generation or earlier about whom you may want to write.

Please send your recollections and photos to :

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

Call or FAX: 617-862-6172

Courtship:

Nathaniel and Sarah had a very brief courtship in the summer of 1840. Having seen Sarah at a neighbor's place, he went there and asked if there were any single women there. When Sarah came to the door, she said, "Well, I'll take him," and they were wed shortly thereafter.

How did you/etc. meet your/etc. spouse?
How long did you/etc. know each other before you/etc. were wed?
When and where did you/etc. decide to get married?

Learning:

Nathaniel and Sarah believed that their children should get a basic formal education and were instrumental in establishing the Perry Center Seminary in 1856. Their oldest daughter, Jennie, was sent to college so that she could teach the younger children.

Beyond a basic formal education, however, most learning occurred informally on the farm and at the mills. How David became a veterinarian and Amos developed his technical knowledge is unclear.

What sort of education did you/etc. get?
Where and how did you/etc. learn your vocational skills, including domestic skills?
Was formal education important to you/etc.?

Child Discipline:

If the children were cutting up, Nathaniel would raise a finger at them or rap on the table. He never raised his voice to them.

Sarah's grandson, Kenneth Beers, wrote, "Just as Father prepared to apply the lash, a shadow passed the kitchen window. (My brother and I} saw it out of the corner of our eyes, so did Father. In through the door swept grandmother Fitch. "Levi, don't you dare touch those boys with that whip. I have raised fifteen children of my own, and I never whipped one of them. Don't

you ever dare horsewhip a grandson of mine."

What sort of child discipline did you/etc.. experience and/or apply?
What specific incidents illustrate that approach?

Military Service:

Nathaniel was adamant that none of his sons should enlist in the during the Civil War. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army, Nathaniel paid for a substitute. When the boys would get excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe and get back to the field."

The Fitch World War I flag indicates that six Fitches served in that war: Fred Gladbach, Hurshel Fitch, Victor Fitch, Fred Fitch, Kenneth Beers and Willis Jensen (?). Kenneth was with the YMCA, but what did the others do?

Some of you/etc.. must have been of age when World War II occurred, but again, we know nothing about who served.

How did you/etc.. feel about military service?
Did you/etc.. serve in the military?
If so, in what branch and in what capacity and where?
Any interesting experiences?

Work:

We know a fair amount about Nathaniel and Sarah's work on the farms, in the mills, in the home and in his blacksmith shop but very little about that of other Fitch kin.

What vocations did you/etc.. pursue?
Did you/etc.. follow in your parents's vocation al footsteps or not?
What prompted you/etc. to select that vocation?
What stories do you recall about their work?

Traditions:

Probably the best known Fitch tradition was the July 4th Family Reunion, which started more than 100 years ago.

We know almost nothing about other Fitch Family traditions that might have been associated with fairs, the seasons, holidays, vacations, life milestones (births, weddings, graduations, deaths), religious events, etc..

What family traditions did you/etc.. have?
Were there any traditional foods in your/etc.. family? (Do the recipes still exist?)



Jennie Fitch's future husband, Levi Beers, (R) joined the Union Army in March, 1865, but a case of measles prevented him from marching to war with his regiment. By the time he recovered, Richmond had fallen, and there was no need to send him after his regiment. He used his $500 enlistment bonus to pay for his college education.



When the Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago in 1893, Kenneth Beers, aged 17, (Jennie's son) worked as an Exposition guard to supplement his family's meager income. Their home in North Harvey, Illinois, was opened to Exposition visitors, and the family slept in the attic throughout much of the year.



The students and teachers of School District 2, Perry Township, Indiana (c. 1910)

Jake Kell is the small boy in front. Carolyn and Elizabeth Kell are also present, as are Grace and Maurice Fitch, John's children.

The school was known as "The Fitch School" due to the number of Fitches who were educated there over the years.

An example of a courtship story

Bringing Home the Beau

by Jennie Fitch Beers' son, Kenneth Beers

One of her fellow students at Hillsdale College especially impressed Jennie. The liking was mutual, and the buds of romance were almost bursting into bloom.

"He insisted on returning home with me," Jennie said, "and gave me no opportunity to send word in advance of our arrival. When we stepped from the train at Stoner's Crossing, our flag stop railway station, a brother was waiting to drive me home.

"My escort was dressed in the latest city fashion, striped trousers and a white collar such as my brothers had never dared wear for fear of family ridicule -- or worse. Hat in hand he helped me from the train and into the carriage. I introduced him to my brother who, tongue tied with astonishment and in great haste to spread the news at home, urged the horse to top speed on our two mile journey.

"When we got abreast of the foot log across the creek between the road and the old school house, well, my brother could stand it no longer. Throwing the lines, he jumped to the ground and ran across the creek, the short cut, for he must tell the news.

"'There goes our advance agent,' I remarked bitterly. It took us ten minutes to drive to the ford to go across the creek, to open and close the gate at the foot of the lane leading up to my home.

"Why didn't I tell him about my family? Well, I was too proud. If he must see all of us before he asked me to be his wife, well, that was his privilege. How could I tell him how primitively we lived, no running water, no conveniences such as he had been accustomed to in the city? How could I tell him that he might have to share a bed with one of my brothers, sleep in a room with a half dozen other boys who never before had seen a high hat at close range, or spats, or such a high collar? How could I tell him these things and many more? He came to see, he would have to learn the truth for himself and either like it or leave."

We children asked, aghast at the telling of this, our mother's own true love story, "Well, what happened?'

"Everything that you could imagine. The boys made fun of him and aped his manners, fought for the privilege of wearing his hat and made life generally miserable for him.

"No, he couldn't take it, and that weekend was the most miserable I ever spent anywhere in my life. He was cool to me on our journey back to school, and, no, he never proposed. That is how close you children came to having a different father."

"How did you meet father," we asked?

"We taught at the same school, and naturally we became acquainted. My family met and liked your father. He was accustomed to the hard ways of country life and was no stranger to farming."

On December 24, 1873, Levi Beers and Jennie Fitch were wed at the Fitch Homestead.

...WANTED...WANTED...WANTED...WANTED...
Inter-generational Family Photos

We would like to publish a series of photos of parents with their children and grandchildren. Any three or more generations in a photo. Please identify who's who and send the photos to Bill Cassell, who will copy and return them to you.

An Example of a Work and School Story

Starting Out

by Charles Fitch's son, Charles O. Fitch

As a boy, I had lots of jobs, including shining shoes and selling a paper called the *Saturday Blade*. I also made stove polish and did well selling it. I used to walk into their kitchens, polish up about a foot of the old kitchen range, and the sale was made. I have a receipt yet for making it, but the kitchen ranges are no more.

I was herdsman for the cows on the hill during one summer as nearly everyone of the residents kept a cow. I used a high wheeled bicycle with a little wheel in front and pedals about a foot long that worked up and down to propel the wheel instead of the kind that went round and round.

I used this wheel to round them up and bring them back at night. One day I hit a rock going down a hill and near broke my neck.

Another summer I herded 300 head of ewes for J. B. Firzherald at $.50 per day. It was not so bad only lots of the ewes would have lambs during the day, and sometimes I had to carry one or two of them back to the yards at night.

I had a friend Harry Moe whose brother owned the *South St. Paul Daily Reporter*. We had jobs there during vacation and after school let out for the afternoon, and we were soon expert typesetters. We got $.10 per hour. We fed press too. We made it go with pedals with our feet.

When the commission (livestock) houses moved to New Brighton on account of the 1897 flood, Father and Harry went to Chicago to work for a commission firm there. They sent very little money home. Things got pretty rough for Mother and me. She used to roast barley and use it in place of coffee. We had very little money. Then I quit school.

About that time I saw the first typesetting machine in the Pioneer Press building and decided that hand typesetting would not be so good, so I applied at the Smythe Printing Co. for a job to learn to do typesetting and make up the forms.

In the meantime I read an ad in the paper for a boy to work his way through school at the J.D. Hess School of Business in the Pioneer Press Building. When I opened their door, I think there must have been 25 boys there. Soon a door opened, and a tall red-haired man, Professor Coffey, appeared. He looked all around the room and beckoned to me to come in. I got the job.

My duties were to sweep the floor, and every Saturday to clean, oil and put new ribbons on the typewriters.

He asked if I had a bicycle. I told him that I did not but that I would get one. This was so when a business firm asked for a stenographer, I would wheel out to where they lived and tell them to come down to the office, as there were few phones at that time.

I went to Kennedy Bros. Arms Co. and bought a Columbia hard tired wheel for $85, paying down $10 and the balance to be $10 a month. At the end of the month I told Coffey that I would have to quit, as I could not make payments on the wheel. He said, "Take it back, and you can use mine," which I did.

I had been there three months and had started taking dictation when, one Saturday morning, a little short man with a fiery full red beard came in and said he wanted a stenographer to work for him at his flour mill in New Prague, Minnesota. I told him that no one was there on Saturdays, and he said, "Well, why won't you do?"

I said that I was not quite through school yet, but that I could run a typewriter fast. He picked up a newspaper and started reading, and I could type as fast as he read. He said, " You'll do. Take the train to New Prague on Monday. Your salary will be $35 a month." I agreed.

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

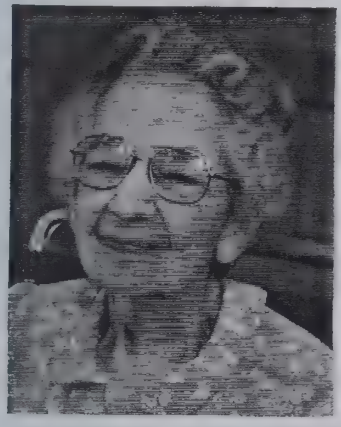
Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1996

In Memory of

Carolyn Kell Davis

6/8/1901 - 5/11/1995



We are sad to report that one of the Fitch Family's most active supporters passed away last year at 93. Carolyn attended all of our family reunions from the early 1920's through the one she helped organize in 1994.

Carolyn was also the author of the 1972 Fitch Family genealogy book.

She will be missed.

From his personal journals:

The Life & Times of Mathias Fitch



Mathias Fitch's saw mill (foreground) was built by his father, Nathaniel Fitch, in 1840. Mathias added a feed-grinder and operated the mill until 1908. The mill is gone, but the 6-foot water turbine that powered it can still be seen near where the mill stood. Mathias is the man on the left.

Throughout most of his life, Mathias Fitch, Nathaniel's second son, maintained a daily journal of his activities and finances. Thanks to his great grandson, Robert E. Fitch, we have access to Mathias' journals from 1888 to 1910, when he was 67.

What he recorded on a daily basis gives us an appreciation of what it was like to live among the Fitches near Huntertown, Indiana, about 100 years ago. His journals tell us about the weather, about managing his farms and mills and about family as well as personal activities. His journals were also his business ledgers, where he recorded his expenses, debts and receivables.

See Mathias Journals - Pg. 5

Bringing Home the Beau

by Jennie Fitch Beers' son, Kenneth Beers

One of Jennie's fellow students at Hillsdale College expecially impressed her. The liking was mutual, and the buds of romance were almost bursting into bloom.

"He insisted on returning home with me," Jennie said, "and gave me no opportunity to send word in advance of our arrival. When we stepped from the train at Stoner's Crossing, our flag stop railway station, a brother was waiting to drive me home.

"My escort was dressed in the latest city fashion, striped trousers and a white collar such as my brothers had never dared wear for fear of family ridicule -- or worse. Hat in hand, he helped me from the train and into the carriage. I introduced him to my brother who, tongue-tied with astonishment and in great haste to spread the news at home, urged the horse to top speed on our two mile journey.

"When we got abreast of the foot log across the creek between the road and the old school house, well, my brother could stand it no longer. Throwing the lines, he

See Courting Disaster - Pg 15

In This Issue:

Old Photos from Mathias and Sarah Fitch's Collections
An Update on the Status of the Fitch Homestead
Old Fitch Family Recipes
A Story of Courting Disaster at the Fitch Homestead
A Recent Wedding that Links Old Fitch Families
Found: A Photo of Young Fitelia Fitch
The Upcoming 1997 Fitch Family Reunion

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Thanks to the generosity of many Fitch cousins, we have avoided a deficit since the '94 Reunion, even though we published a regular Newsletter for 380 descendant families and a special Newsletter for 40 descendants who were born before 1930. We also re-photographed about 80 old family photographs and sent copies of them to 20 of our "elder" kin, in the hopes that they could identify some of them. (And they did.)

It should be noted that the original 3rd class postage for our Winter '95 Newsletter was only $118. The additional $80 resulted from paying the Post Office for address corrections when someone had moved and for remailing their Newsletters at 1st class rates. We can save that $1.30 per Newsletter if we have correct addresses.

The special Newsletter mentioned above was sent out to elicit family background, stories, photos, recipes, etc. The results of this mailing are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As noted at the end of the accounting below, we will be in a deficit position when you receive this Newsletter, so your kind support would be appreciated in two ways: Financially via a contribution and by keeping me up-to-date on family address changes, births, marriages, divorces and deaths (especially since January, 1994).

Beginning Balance - 8/19/94	$ 0.00
Contributions	
'94 Reunion Hat Passing	$433.00
Excess from Reunion Expenses	$147.52
From Fitch Descendants	$720.00
Sub-Total Income	$1,300.52
Expenses	
Winter '95 Newsletter	
Composition	$ 59.45
Printing	$360.62
Envelopes	$ 29.40
Rubber Stamp	$ 4.99
Postage	$188.80
Photography Supplies & Printing	$ 95.20
Sarah Stratton Photo ID Mailing	
Composition	$ 26.82
Printing	$ 21.60
Postage	$ 20.20
Special Newsletter - Summer '95	
Composition	$ 2.98
Printing	$ 11.00
Postage	$ 12.80
3rd Class Mail Permit Renewal	$ 85.00
Miscellaneous Postage	$ 21.20.
Sub-total Expenses	$940.06
Balance - 1/2/96	$360.46
Estimated Cost of this Newsletter	$600.00
Projected Balance After Newsletter	($240.00)

A 1997 Fitch Family Reunion?

At the 1994 Reunion, the frequency and duration of future Reunions was discussed, and it was generally agreed that our Reunions should be held every two or three years and should be longer, perhaps Friday through Sunday, so that there would be more time for socializing. This is especially important for out-of-state cousins.

Since we need to reserve a location early in January of the year we hold a Reunion, we need to do some planning now.

Are you interested in having a Fitch Family Reunion in Fort Wayne in the summer of 1997?

Would you be interested in having events on Friday evening, Saturday and/or Sunday?

If so, how would you suggest we manage such a Reunion? If you live in the Fort Wayne area, would you be willing to help organize the Reunion?

Drop me a note or give me a call with your Reunion thoughts. Many thanks.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

617-862-6172

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Joan Dove
Charlotte Wuepper
Eileen & Glenn Fitch
Mary Belle Brogren
Alice & Jerry Deck
Barbara Ann Kelham
Sara Fair Sleeper
Francia Mann
Betty & Warren Fitch
Ellen Adams
Linwood Fitch
Mary Baird
Barbara Hulsizer
William S. Fitch
Sr. M. Alma Louise
Robert Ozanne
Betty J. Richards
Richard Houser
Helen H. Florsheim

And to **Lucille O. Cassell**, my mother, whose open purse over the years kept our Fitch family history operation solvent. I am very glad that she was able to attend the '94 Fitch Reunion before she passed away last October.

A Newsletter Editor's Note

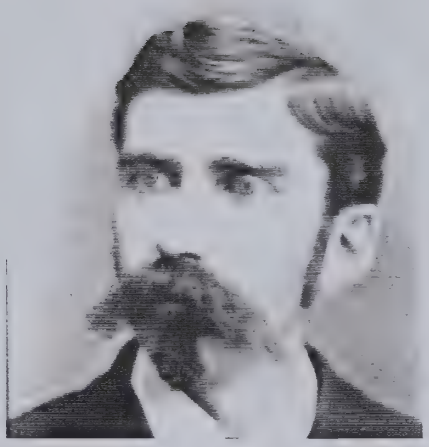
Have you ever wondered how I decide what gets into a Newsletter (or why there are so many Jennie and Mathias-related items)? While I try to select things that might interest our many cousins, I am limited by the material that I have available. You can help if you search your memories and attics for stories, photos, recipes, whatever!

Our Thanks to Dawn Stratton

In early 1995 Dawn Stratton, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton's great granddaughter, sent me a collection of more than 50 old photos from Sarah's album.

With the help of a number of Fitch "cousins", we were able to identify some of them as Fitches. Many others, alas, remain unidentified and could be from the Stratton side of the family or some of Sarah's friends.

This newsletter's photos of Perry, Amos, Fitelia and Frances Fitch and Levi Beers, as well as those on this page, came from her collection, which was copied for our archives.



Irvin Franklin Stratton, husband of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, born in 1848 and married to Sarah Elizabeth in 1881.



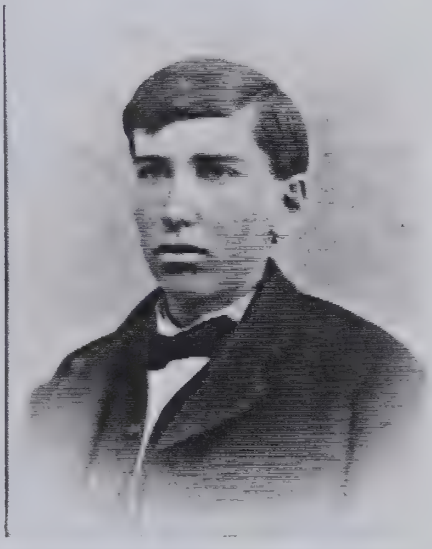
An unidentified woman from Sarah's collection. There were many such unidentified photos. If you want to look at these, write to Bill Cassell.



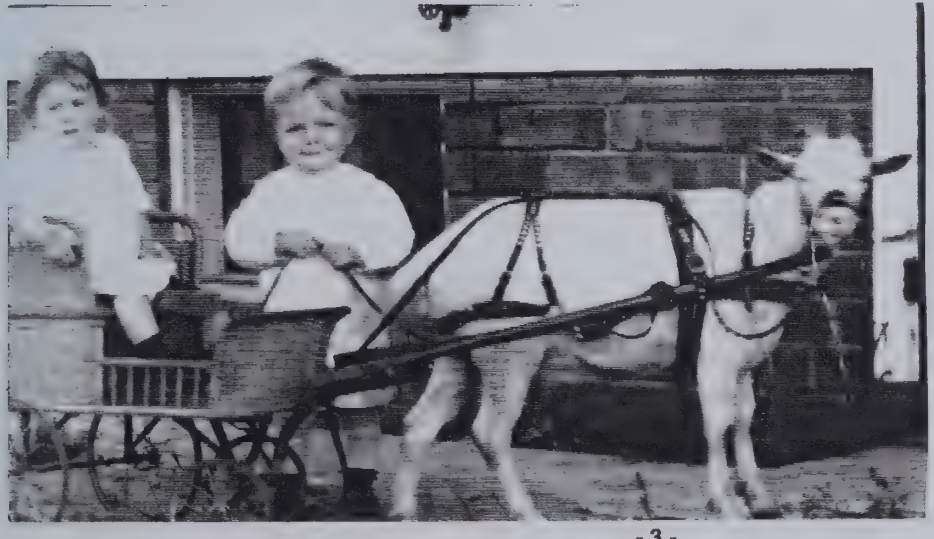
Ida Alice Fitch Mason, Nathaniel's 12th child, born in 1858 and married to Melville Mason, a dentist, in 1890.



Mary Jane "Jennie" Fitch Beers, Nathaniel's 3rd child, born 1844 and married to Levi Beers, a teacher and later a Methodist minister, in 1873.



Leander E. Stratton, 1st child of Sarah and Irvin Stratton, born in 1885 and married to Edna Beaver in 1910 and, after her death, to Clara Kolstad in 1919.



Fitch cousins in a wicker goat cart, c. 1914. (Standing) Mark E. Stratton, 1st child of Leander Stratton, born in 1912. (Seated in cart) Ruth H. Bowlby, 1st child of Helen Stratton Bowlby, born in 1912. Grandchildren of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton.

Early Work Experiences

We know how Nathaniel and some of his children began their working lives. What later generations did early in their careers may also be of interest.

Charles Oakley Fitch was born in 1878 in Hastings, Iowa, and soon moved to Minnesota, where his story takes place.

Kenneth Beers was born in 1876 in Wabash, Indiana. His family had moved to Illinois by 1893.

Starting Out

by Charles Oakley Fitch, son of Charles Fitch

As a boy, I had lots of jobs, including shining shoes and selling a paper called the *Saturday Blade*. I also made stove polish and did well selling it. I used to walk into their kitchens, polish up about a foot of the old kitchen range, and the sale was made. I have a receipt yet for making it, but the kitchen ranges are no more.

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Later he became an ice man, working for his father who started a coal and ice business. He filled refrigerators in meat markets.

His opportunity in the newspaper business came when he took his lunch, walked two miles to the office of the *Harvey Citizen* and announced that he had come to go to work. When he learned that someone else had been hired, he replied, "That's all right. I'll just stay and work for nothing anyway." And he stayed and was editor and publisher of that newspaper before he was 21.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 1 -

January, 1888

Tues. 3 Clear, Moderate

Ground some feed. Fixed up shaft (of sawmill turbine). David (Fitch) her to get log boat. He got it to draw some logs. Schuyler (his son) helped at putting up shaft.

Wed. 4 Thawing

Worked at putting up shaft. Ground some. Amos Fitch and Jo Pepple drawed some logs. Honek here. Kearkey here, got some of his grist. Went to schoolhouse to teach bookkeeping in the evening.

Thurs. 5 Cloudy, Thaw

Worked at shop. Made stand for grinder. Ground some. Boger here to see if I could shoe his horses. Going to bring them tomorrow. Worked at shafting some.

Fri. 6 Rain most of day

Worked in shop. Shod Boger's horses. J.J. Rundles here to get pipe tongs. Perry Gump here to get his grist. Was not done. Mike Beber here to get some lumber. Got a few pieces.

Sat. 7 Cloudy, Warm

Worked at putting up shaft and mill. Got it going. Ground some. Kearkey got his grist. Paid for it. Gave money to Schuyler 50 cts. Went to depot at Five Points. Schuyler went along.

Sun. 8 Mild

Drove down to Mother's. Took Schuyler and Althea to the Griffins. Came home. Read papers. Wrote some letters. Schuyler came home in P.M. Walter (a son), Bessie and Althea (daughters) at Griffins.

Mon. 9 Some colder

Went to Fort Wayne on the 10 o'clock train. Got dinner 25 cts, bridles $6.50, shirts & overalls for John $1.70. Sent to Western Rural $3.40, leather pegs and ants $1.45, rivets 40 cts, board $1.25, ink, pens & chalk 60 cts, RR fare 10 cts.

Tues. 10 Colder

Staid all night in town at Langs. Attended annual meeting. Came home in the evening. Schuyler came to the train for me with team. He went to George Wilcock's to social.

Wed. 11 A little warm

Helped to grind some. Joe Whelset came got his grist & bought some lumber 25 cts. Went to schoolhouse in the evening, had class in bookkeeping.

Thur. 12 Thawed some

Fred Smith here with grist, is to get it one week from today. Ground some for ourselves.

Fri. 13 Cold

Worked in mill some & in barn. Cut partitions on stalls shorter. Something wrong at mill dam. Could not grind much.

Sat. 14 Some warmer

Went and put some boards on dam in A.M. Lidy Beber and children came at noon. Schuyler, Walter & I went to Huntertown in P.M. Took some butter. Got 15 cts per lb. Got 2 spools thread, oil lamp chimney, paper, all 82 cts. Got of A. Sterling $28.75.



Mathias and his wife, Frances, seated in front. Others are unidentified.

Sun. 15 Cold

At home all day. Willie Giles here all night. Schuyler and Walter went with sled to Perry's. Came back in P.M. Read papers, cracked walnuts. Wrote some.

Mon. 16 Clear, cold

Took sawdust to dam to make it tight. Got back at noon. Brought load of fodder from the field and took more sawdust in P.M. Brought some wood home. Henry Boger here. Gave him 2 dollars for his father to get coal at Ft. Wayne. Duntion here to look at sheep.

Tues. 17 Clear

David brought the coal I sent Boger for. Fixed some chains for David. He paid me 20 cts for fixing them. Lam Bricker here to buy sheep. Did not sell to him.

Wed. 18 Clear

Duntion, Holbrook and Perry here to see sheep. Did not sell them. David Gump and family here, had grist. Could not grind, so took it to other mill. They went to Rinholts. Went to schoolhouse in evening. Taught bookkeeping.

Thurs. 19 Clear

Fred Smith came after his grist. Was not done. He took it to the other mill. Schuyler went to Huntertown. Got some oysters & crackers. Amount to $1.29. I owe him 9 cts yet. Parker here. Bought or bargained for sheep. Rec'd $5 dollars.

Fri. 20 Clear, cold

Went to dam. Drawed some fodder. Got some wood. Henry Runtoy here to get grist ground. Could not grind. Went to mill and to Gumps.

Sat. 21 Clear, cold

Went to dam. Fixed it some. Jim Malcome here. Got $1.75 worth of lumber of Amos'. Rode to Huntertown with him. Sugar, coffee, cough drops 82 cts. Surface, A. Kell, George V., Hatch B. here to get some money for M.E. Church parsonage.

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 6



Schuyler Fitch, Mathia Fitch's first son, born in 1869 and married to Leah Pepple in 1893. Descendant families include: Fitch, Hartnett, Coen, Lyon, Smith and Blackburn.



John Bryon Fitch, Mathias Fitch's second son, born in 1872 and married to Rosa Hollopeter in 1898. Descendant families include: Fitch, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Holcomb, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie, Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Sanchez, Furlough, Wortman and Whitehead.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 5 -

Sun. 22 Clear, warmer

At home. Read papers. Dan Pepple here. Bessie went to Grandma's to get papers. Did not get any. Nate Beber here to get wedge. Paid 10 cts. He got chop feed.

Mon. 23 Clear

Took wheelbarrow. Went to dam & fixed it. Schuyler drawed wood & fodder. Fixed transom. Worked in house. Henry Boger here to get man to help saw wood. Gave wife $1.50 to pay to John for overshoes.

Tues. 24 Clear

Schuyler went to help Boger saw wood. I tended stock. Read some. Was in house most of day.

Wed. 25 Stormy, snow

Schuyler went to help Boger. I tended stock. Worked in shop. Commenced to make crowbar. Schuyler got done at noon. John and I went to schoolhouse in evening to writing and bookkeeping. Willie Fitch came home with us. Got some honey for baby.

Thurs. 26 Clear

Worked in shop a while. Went with Saylor Preston and Parker fox hunting in A.M. Schuyler & I went to Huntertown in P.M. Sent to *Youth's Companion* $1.75. For boots for myself $2.50, for stove pipe and sundries $1.32. Mrs. Marshall rode home with us.

Fri. 27 Clear, warmer

Took gun, went across creek to see about foxes. A man here with grist. Wm. Burl here to get beech log. He went to Bally. Schuyler, Walter & I went down creek where there was mad dog. Schuyler shot it. We hunted for rabbits a while & came home.

Sat. 28 Clear

Took sheep to Huntertown. Schuyler & Walter went along. Got $112.30. Coffee 26 cts. Paid Walter $14.75, settled with him. Paid John $5.95. George Wolford rode to town with us. The sheep weighted 2850 lbs. Buck weighed 175 lbs.

Sun. 29 Cloudy, thawed

Went down to mother's. Hartzell & wife, Ida Fitch, Warren Hartzell & Mrs. Andrew there. Amos Fitch & family. Hartzell came. Got home. Thomas Vandolah and Emma Gump came in sled. Stayed all day.

Mon. 30 Clear, thawed

Worked in shop & fixed crowbar. John Bally here to get rope and pulley. Got pulley. Sent sledge home. Went to dam & fixed it some. Horton and Timmons there getting ice. Schuyler drawed fodder & cleaned sheep stables. Hondin & son drawed logs for West. David Fitch drawed logs. John & Walter went to school.

Tues. 31 Cloudy, not cold

Went with Schuyler & took some stone to the dam. Put on some boards. Some fishermen came & went fishing. Gus Pick came. Schuyler and him went hunting. They hacked and dug out a skunk. Gus stayed all night. John was at Huntertown & and got papers and letter for Bessie.

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 7

- Mathias' Journals from Page 6 -
January, 1905

Thurs. 26 Cloudy

Worked in shop, making ice tongs. Got them done by noon. Helped cut ice at dame in P.M. Wormen helped John and Parker Fitch draw ice. Worman arranged to go to town tomorrow. Gave him $1.00 to get two sieves. Althea went with some of the members of her club to Lena West's wedding.

Fri. 27 Clear

Around home. Looked after stock for Worman. He had gone to Ft. Wayne with load of wood. Fred Kell came in A.M. to see me about buying some land and buying my horse at Kills. He went home before noon. The girls went to debate at St. Johns at night. Went with Harvey's and Amos'.

Sat. 28 Clear

Took crescent saw to where Surface boys were cutting wood. Went to Freese mill from there. Saw Freese. Went up the race & came home. Stopped at mother's on the way home & gave her five dollars. Looked after chores for Worman. He had gone to town with wood. The girls went to John Fitch's in evening.

June, 1888

Wed. 13 Rained some

The boys got done replanting corn & hoed some potatoes. I made beehive, changed some bees into them. Amos here after lumber.

Thurs. 14 Cloudy

The boys fixed race. I worked at hives. Peddler here. Got socks & tablecloth $2.25. Machine agent here. Went to Huntertown in evening & got of Fred Preston crate of honey boxes $2.80, letter & lemons 20 cts. John Griffin here with grist. David paid the money he borrowed $10.

Fri. 15 Clear

The boys plowed potato garden. John & I went down home & got plow. _____ calf we brought it home. Candidate here. Ed Drake and Ed Parker. Got Perry Fitch's shingles sawed.

Sat. 16 Clear

Sawed some. Worked with bees. Went to Mike Kisler's in P.M. Looked at his bees & stopped at Sam Surfaces. Went to Huntertown in evening. John went along. Attended Selective Meeting. Got bananas 10 cts. Got home about midnight. The shingles on one house of Esther's amount to $3.32.

Sun. 17 Clear

Read papers. Lulu Surface, Willie Fitch & other boys here. Schuyler took horse and buggy. Bessie, Althea & I went to Cedar Church in evening to Children's Day. Got home about 11 o'clock. To collection 25 cts.

Mon. 18 Cloudy

Schuyler plowed potatoes. John hoed cane. Walter choring. I went to dam & worked at bee hives. Changed one swarm of bees. Curtis West here. Got sawdust & fixed leaks.

Tues. 19 Clear

Worked at beehives and at dam. Wheeled some gravel to make tight. Schuyler, John and Walter worked at hoeing cane and potatoes. Went to commencement at Cedar Church in evening. Bessie went along.

Wed. 20 Clear

Sawed some hives & worked with bees. Had swarm of bees. Sil Simon here, paid interest on his note, amount $16. Went to Huntertown in the evening. Stayed at meeting. For matches 10 cts.

Thurs. 21 Clear

Went to Ft. Wayne & got check $13.20. For suit & overalls & suspenders $9.10, bedspreads gingham $3.71. For fixtures $1.35. Railroad & dinner $1.58. Bananas & lemons 20 cts, soda 10 cts. Walter went along to town. Sold bees wax for $3.60. R. Cone here in morning, got some lumber, amount $1.00. Did not pay for it.

Fri. 22 Clear

Worked making some bee fixtures. The boys worked in corn and potatoes. I went to Huntertown in P.M. & attended caucus. Rode home with David Fitch. Paid Gus Pick for shearing sheep & sold him shears. Owed him 90 cts.

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 8



(Left) Huntertown Methodist Episcopal Church in 1910

- Mathias' Journals from Page 7 -

Sat. 23 Cloudy

Worked at sawing some. In evening Schuyler went to picnic at Cedar Church.

Sun. 24 Clear

At home all day. Wife and some of the children went to Bogers. Bessie and Schuyler to Sunday School & Church. Quite a number of boys here.

Mon. 25 Rain

Cleaned shop. Fixed and sorted iron. Fixed workbench. Sawed some and commenced to fix in barn. Pepple here to get wire stretcher. Did not get. A Thrush here to get log wagon. Got it & drawed some logs. J. J. Rundle here to get load of wood 35 cts.

Tues. 26 Clear

The boys worked in barn. Sawed some plank for Gump. Boger here, got load of wood. Harvey Fitch got some lumber. Boggs here to buy sheep. Houston brought hoes home & got brace & bits - brought them home in evening.

Wed. 27 Cloudy

Schuyler & I sawed one of Thrush's logs. John & Walter plowed corn. Schuyler worked at potatoes in P.M. Worked in barn some. Sawed another log for Thrush after supper.

Thur. 28 Rain

Schuyler & I sawed pickets for Thrush. Built car track & sawed logs. John hunted for cows. Dan Pepple here. Harv Saylo here, got hay rack, stuff of Amos'.

Fri. 29 Clear

Sawed lumber. Schyuler & John helped. Fixed cant hook. Thrush came in the evening. Got some of his pickets. His man was with him.

Sat. 30 Clear

Sawed lumber. Thrush got lumber & pickets he had left. Houston & sons here to grind mower knife. Quit sawing in middle of afternoon. Schuyler & I went to Gap well. Jacob Miller came home with me to supper. John & I went to Huntertown in the evening. Got home at 12 o'clock. Spent for sugar 50 cts.

July, 1888

Sun. 1 Clear

Willie Fitch came home with Schuyler. I read papers. Bessie and Attie went to David Fitch's. Nan, Gladys and Roland (Fitch) here in P.M. Two of Perry's boys here for dinner.

Mon. 2 Clear

The boys plowed and worked at potatoes. I sawed one log.

Tues. 3 Clear

Worked in mill some. The boys worked at corn and potatoes. I went down home in the evening. Mother came home from Perry's.

Wed. 4 Cloudy

Went to Perry Fitch's to see him about cutting wheat. He brought canvas and came along down with me. Ripped slats. Fixed canvas. John went to Huntertown. Took mother. Schuyler took horse to Perry's to bring machine down tomorrow.

Thur. 5 Clear

They brought machine. Got it set up & commenced to cut some in the afternoon. Had a swarm of bees.

Fri. 6 Clear

The boys worked at cutting wheat. Broke sickle knife. Fixed it for William Fitch. Had swarm of bees.

Sat. 7 Clear A.M. Rain

Went to Laotto & from there to Kendleville. Bought bee fixtures $3.50. Got back to Laotto at noon. Looked around there. Got home at supper time. Went to Huntertown after supper. Got at depot honey boxes sent from Kendleville. John went with me. Stayed to meeting of regulators.

Sun. 8 Clear

Read papers. Took walk with girls. Saw Perry Gump and Mrs. Honek. Some small boys here swimming. Curtis West here to see about getting wheat. Had one swarm of bees.

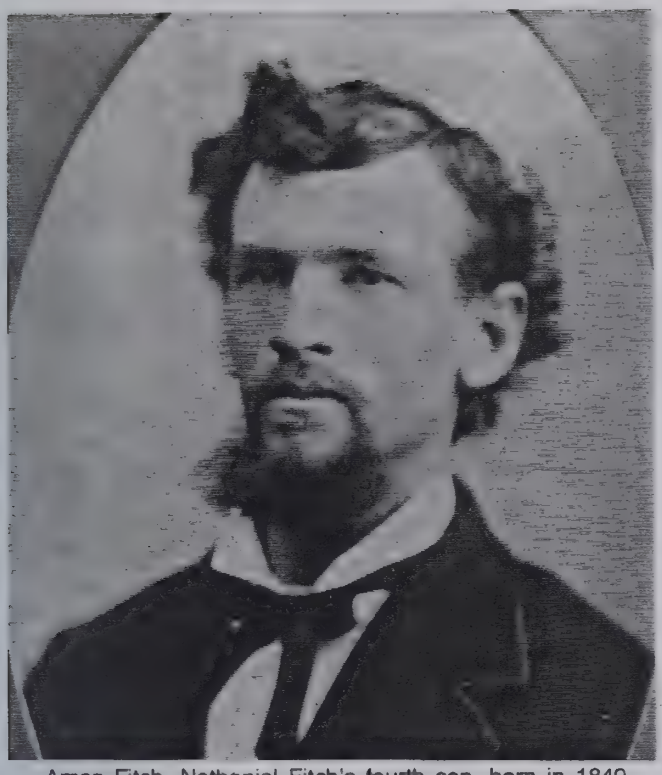
Mon. 9 Rain

Commenced to rain early in the morning. Rained most of day. Went to mother's & got receipts for money. Allen Fitch paid her. Stopped at mill on the way home to

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 9



Perry Fitch, Nathaniel Fitch's first son, born in 1842 and married to Sarah Gloyd in 1864. Descendants include: Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Eucker, Hula, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Horton, Colby, Griest, Wyatt, More, Smith, Gladbach and Ewing.



Amos Fitch, Nathaniel Fitch's fourth son, born in 1849 and married to Nancy Hunter in 1878. Descendants include Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Dove, Wagner, Noll and Wert.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 8 -

see Curtis West. Worked in shop. David Fitch here.

Tues. 10 Clear

Houston here to get rakes. Bought 6 bushels corn of him at 50 cts. per bushel. Curtis West here. Sold him all the wheat. Took load down. 1055 lbs. Willie cut wheat. The boys shocked. Worked in shop & with boys. Wrote some letters. John took them to Huntertown after supper. Got rake 25 cts., letters 4 cts.

July, 1905 - Fitch Reunion

Mon. 3 Cloudy, rained

Worked in cellar while it rained. Wrote letter & sent $47.56 to Mrs. Drake, less sending 18 cts. I went to train in evening. Allen Fitch and wife (Emma Fitch) from South St. Paul came on train. Stopped at mother's. I stayed a while & came home.

Tues. 4 Cloudy

I went to mother's. Wife and the girls came afterwards. Had reunion of the Fitch relations. Nearly all of Perry Fitch, wife, sons and daughters there. Amos Fitch family. My sons and families. Fred & Bessie (Fitch) Kell & family. Harvey Fitch and family. Mason & wife (Ida Fitch). Hartzell and wife (Emma Fitch). Gloyds and family. Strattons. Mr. Parker. David Fitch & family.

July, 1910 - Fitch Reunion

Mon. 4 Clear

The girls, Althea, Allie and Mrs. Saw went in rig to Harvey Fitch's to Fitch Reunion. Walked there until 4 o'clock. Saw most of the folks. Hartzell and wife. Gloyd and family. Mason, Amos, two daughters and son David Fitch and all except one boy. Bertha Beers (Colorado). David Young from Ohio, J. B. Fitch and family & others. Ida Mason sent report from Europe. Allen Fitch sent report of Fitch Fund. He had made $42 and some cents out of the $15. I paid 10 cts. and 20 cts. for expenses.



Frances Vandolah Fitch, wife of Mathias Fitch



Fitelia Fitch (one of the twin daughters of Nathaniel Fitch) born in 1851 and married to Jerome Gloyd in 1875. This is the only known photo of Fitelia as a young woman. Descendants include Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emenhiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vanderloop, Hardwick and Cumberland.

On Education:
Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic

Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch wanted their children to be educated beyond what was usual for farm children in rural Indiana in the latter half of the 19th century. To this end, in 1856 Nathaniel and some neighbors (Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd, Mr. Hilegart) founded the Perry Center Seminary, where a college-educated teacher taught reading, writing, arithmetic, oration and Latin or Greek to the older children.

A non-graded district school provided education for the younger Fitches. Why some ended their formal educations when they were just 10 years old is not known. The twins, Fitelia and Francelia, left school in 1861 at that age.

In 1866, Nathaniel sent his oldest daughter, Jennie, off to Hillsdale College in Michigan. His purpose in doing so was to have a "permanent" teacher for his family and the community after she graduated. Jennie taught only one summer at the white schoolhouse across the creek near the Fitch Homestead before she left to pursue a career and, possibly, a husband who was not a farmer, in Fort Wayne, Utica (NY) and Wabash.

Perhaps his 10th child, Sarah Elizabeth, provides some insight into this question.

"Jennie was the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know *running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.* (Italics mine) I'm not blaming her (Jennie). It was Father that spoiled her."

Nathaniel's youngest child, David, attended school in Fort Wayne in the late 1870' or early 1880's, so it is probable that he attended a graded school, which were more common in the "cities" than the country.

Sometime after 1887, when he married Emma Belle Stirlin, David went to veterinarian school in Chicago. His granddaughter, Mary Belle Brogren, writes, "I really think that it was quite unusual to be a married student in those days."

David's daughter, Helen Fitch Hawver, always said that Nathaniel felt that education was very important; and, thus, David and Emma Belle stressed the importance of education to their children, Hurschel, Burgess and Helen.

Hurschel and Burgess both graduated from Purdue University, with Hurschel becoming an engineer in Auburn and Burgess becoming a college agricultural teacher and eventually head of the dairy department at the University of Minnesota.

Helen was a graduate of Western College for Women, doing her graduate work at Columbia and teaching high school.



David Nathaniel Fitch, Nathaniel's 15th (and Sarah's last) child, born in 1865 and married to Emma Belle Stirlin in 1887. Descendants include: Fitch, Wuepper, Dick, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Vegeler, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Brogren, Schofield, Florsheim, Richardson and Le Vay.

One of Jennie Fitch Beers' sons and all three of her daughters earned college degrees just after the turn of the 20th century. While it does not appear that Jennie's other son, Kenneth, went to college, he was, nevertheless, well-educated and worked as a journalist most of his life.

Roy Beers, Jennie's second son, had a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Rochester, and he used his engineering know-how in figuring out how best for some farmer, township or estate owner to bring water from its source to their houses. His business slogan was:

"When you want water, call for Beers".

His father, Levi Beers, was a Methodist minister and militant agitator against the open saloon and the evils of strong drink, including beer. Jennie Fitch Beers was president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, in 1890. It's said that the liquor men (those who sold it or profited from it) had many a laugh over the Beers' name.

All three of Jennie's daughters were teachers. Her youngest, Alice Beers Kephart, was a frontier teacher in Colorado. On one occasion, she was hired to teach in a one room schoolhouse where previous teachers had been run off by the students. When she arrived, she carried her long buggy whip into the room and leaned it against the blackboard. The threat of that sort of discipline was enough, and the students accepted her as their teacher.

Speaking of discipline, I am reminded that I also asked about "child discipline" stories in the special summer Newsletter to our "elders". I was curious to see if Nathaniel and Sarah's non-violent approach to child discipline had come down through the generations. Regrettably, I have only two stories on the subject.

Once, when Kenneth and Roy Beers went swimming instead of helping their mother with the laundry, as they had been instructed, their father took them to the basement kitchen, gave them a brief lecture on disobedience and then took down the buggy whip.

"Just as Father was about to apply the lash, a shadow passed the kitchen window. We saw it out of the corner of our eyes, as did Father. In through the door swept Grandmother Fitch (Nathaniel's wife). 'Levi, don't you dare touch those boys with that whip. I raised fifteen children of my own, and I never whipped one of them. Don't you ever dare horsewhip a grandson of mine.' We never heard our father's reply for the simple reason that we were in full retreat elsewhere. The buggy whip was never seen again."

Kenneth also tells of disobeying his parents' instructions to stay within the camp meeting grounds one summer Sunday. He strayed outside with some older boys.

"My father trailed us to the Clarion River. He took me into one of nature's chapels and on his knees prayed that I might not be led to disobey again. The boys were certain that the punishment I received was a whipping."

Babysitting - The Old Fashioned Way

by Kenneth Beers

Two lots beyond the parsonage lived a boy about my own age with whom I often played. His mother left him in charge of his baby sister. "See that she doesn't get off the walk. She will be all right there."

Harvey and I had some railroading to do that afternoon. Specifically, we were building a tunnel in the back yard. This naturally took us underground for at least part of the time.

It would be difficult to watch the baby sister; so, as an engineering feat, I suggested that we nail her fast to the board sidewalk, which we did, by her skirts.

Harvey's mother returned while we were in our tunnel. Horrified to find her adorable baby in anything but an adorable condition, she hastened to pick her up. The nails held, just as we planned they would. It was hard on her clothes, of course.

"Whose idea was this, nailing the baby to the walk?" Truth and honesty were again being put to a severe test, but I managed to assure Harvey's mother that it was my idea. "I thought so. Now, Kenneth Beers, you get home as quickly as you can," and I got.

Recollections:

LeRoy Fitch Beers

by Ellen Beers Adams

When I was a youngster, about 4 to 6 years old, my father, Roy Beers, sat down with me and gave me an unforgettable lesson. All I remember is that he had some object (it might have been a penny or some other coin, or it could have been an apple), which he placed between us.

Then he pulled it over close to himself and said one word: "Mine." Next he pushed it over close to me and said, "Thine." (I knew what "thine" meant because I was accustomed to his reading from the Bible every morning after breakfast.)

My best guess is that he did this 3 or 4 times. It certainly had impact; I got the message loud and clear.

Recollections:

David Nathaniel Fitch

by Helen Fitch Silha

I remember my granddad, David Nathaniel Fitch. He visited us in Manhatten, Kansas, where my father, James Burgess Fitch, was the head of the Dairy Department at what was then Kansas State Agricultural College. My brother Bill, Granddad Fitch and my dad went hunting ducks with Dad's cousin, Jim Fair, in Alden, Kansas. Bill has some pictures of them, holding many ducks.

I have memories of Ed Fair, Jim Fair and Aunt "Frank" (Francelia). I met Sarah Fair at that time, probably in the early 30's."

It's a Small World!

On June 24, 1995, Jennie Fitch Beers and Sarah Fitch Stratton's families "met" in an Iowa wedding, when Celeste Sleeper, who is somehow related to Sarah Fair Sleeper's husband Alan (the Stratton side), married Randy Spangler, who is Jennie's great, great grandson.



Celeste Sleeper Spangler and her groom, Randy Spangler, as a modern-day "Gothic American" couple. A table fork substitutes for the pitchfork in Grant Wood's original painting.

Food and the Fitches

As anyone who has attended a Fitch Family Reunion luncheon can attest, our kin certainly know how to cook. In the Special Newsletter sent out this past summer to older relatives, we asked if there were any early Fitch recipes available, and we were pleasantly surprised by the response.

On the next two pages are printed a dozen early family recipes. While the exact origins of these recipes are unknown, we do know that these foods were prepared by Fitch women who were born in the 19th century. Given that most women learned their domestic skills from their mothers, it is likely that some of these recipes predate our sources. Many of their recipes and suggestions or comments (which we have reprinted in quotation after the recipes) exist in their own handwriting.

Some of these recipes are for foods that are no longer common: Spoon bread, cooked mayonnaise, fritters. Others have their modern equivalents, but their ingredients, measurements or instructions may be somewhat dated.

Two recipes (Beef Loaf and Christmas Pudding) that use large quantities of suet (the hard, crumbly beef or sheep fat deposited around the kidneys and loins) are out-of-step with modern healthy diets, except in small quantities.

Each recipe has been attributed to its earliest known source, and the dates of that person's life are given to the right of their name.

There are two known "Fitch" foods, mentioned in early documents, for which we have no recipes: Salt-rising bread and pickled beets. Does anyone have those recipes, or any other old ones, for that matter?

The recipes are printed in a format that, when copied, can be folded or cut up and should fit into modern recipe boxes. If anyone is courageous enough to try some of these recipes, I'd love to hear about it and, ideally, get a photo of the results and/or the cook.

As the pumpkin custard pie is a tradition in our house on Thanksgiving Day, I can give you my personal assurance that it is well worth the effort.

On Food:
Notes from our kin

by Ellen Beers Adams, granddaughter of Jennie Fitch Beers

My mother, Clara Darrohn Beers, was the most industrious homemaker! All through the 1930's, I would come home from school on autumn days to find the house filled with the aromas of pickle-making. Mother always kept a fine stock of her own pickles, jellies and jams in the basement. Her watermelon pickles were a favorite of many guests.

She would send me down to bring some up whenever we were having company - - this was often, as my parents loved to entertain and to show off their "showplace" gardens, etc., to which they devoted a great deal of time and effort.

Each fall in the late 20's and early 30's, Mother would buy dozens and dozens of eggs, while their prices were low, to be put into a large crock in the basement. The crock contained a keeping agent called "water glass (sodium silicate solution).

These eggs were used all winter, but only in baking or other types of cooking. They were not suitable to be used as fresh eggs.

How many times did my mother send me down there with a bowl and a long-handled, slotted spoon to bring up eggs for her baking! It was always a bit revolting to handle that thick "gooey" material - - even with a spoon!

Love of ice cream seems to be in our Fitch genes! My father (Roy Beers) really loved ice cream. In the days before freezers were a common addition to refrigerators (let alone a household necessity), on many a Sunday Dad would stop to pick up a quart of ice cream on the way home from church. At home, it was wrapped in a blanket to stay cold until our Sunday dinner had been eaten.



Clara Beers, whose recipe for chocolate cake follows, sits in an early soda fountain with her bonnet hanging down her back.



Margie Beers (L) and Althea Fitch, one of Mathias Fitch's daughters, in Harvey IL in 1900.

`Belle (Mrs. John) Fitch's *1874 - 1953*

Crumb Pie

2 c. flour
1 c. white sugar
1/2 t. soda
1/2 c. shortening
2 t. cinnamon
1 t. ground cloves
1/2 c. molasses
1/2 c. hot water

Blend first 6 ingredients into crumbs. Press part into pan for crust and save part for the topping. Mix molasses and water and pour into crumb crust. Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Bake at 350/375 degrees for about 45 minutes or less.

(Belle was Mathias Fitch's daughter-in-law.)

Jennie Fitch Beers' *1844 - 1925*

Spoon Bread

1 c. boiling water
1/2 c. corn meal
1/2 c. milk
1/2 t. salt
1 1/2 t baking powder
1 T. soft butter
2 eggs (well-beaten)

Pour boiling water over corn meal. Beat in the remaining ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole and bake in hot oven (400 degrees) until just set (20-25 minutes). 6 servings.

(Jennie was Nathaniel Fitch's oldest daughter and the wife of Levi Beers, a teacher and Methodist minister.)

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Pumpkin Custard Pie

2 c. pumpkin/squash (stewed and sieved or canned)
1 1/2 c. or 2 c. white sugar
4 eggs
1/2 t. cinnamon (heaped)
1/2 t. ginger (scant)
1/2 t. salt (scant)
3 c. milk

Combine filling ingredients in the order given and pour into pastry-lined pans. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes at 375 degrees. Test for doneness by inserting a table knife into the center of a pie. If only a trifle of the filling clings to the knife, the pies are done.

(Margie was one of Jennie Fitch's daughters. "Canned pumpkin is best because it takes a good deal of fuel to cook a pumpkin." This recipe can be prepared as custard without the crust by baking containers in pans of water.)

Clara (Mrs. Roy) Beers' *1888 - 1981*

Chocolate Cake

1/2 c. butter
1 c. white sugar
1/2 c. brown sugar
2 eggs
1 c. sour milk (or butter milk)
2 c. flour (sifted)
2 sq. chocolate (melted)
1 t. baking soda
1 T. vinegar
1 t. vanilla
1/2 t. salt

Cream butter and sugars. Mix in eggs, then milk, then melted chocolate. Add remaining ingredients and stir until mixed. Bake at 350 degrees until done (top springs back to touch).

(Clara was Jennie Fitch Beers' daughter-in-law. Based on the volume of the ingredients, it appears that this recipe will make a two layer cake. Clara's comment was "keeps moist".)

Jennie Fitch Beers' *1844 - 1925*

Nut Candy

Take sugar in proportion of 1 cup sugar to 1/4 cup water.
Cut up nuts, about 1/2 cup of nuts to 1 cup of sugar.
Cook sugar, water and nuts until it makes a ball when dropped into cold water.
Set in pan of cold water until candy is cold or nearly so.
Then stir (use wooden spoon or stick) until candy crumbles.
Keep stirring until it softens.
Pack it in a dish.

(This recipe can be made in any quantity by using the proportions given.)

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Cooked Mayonnaise

2 eggs (or 1 egg and 1 rounded t. flour)
1 c. vinegar (1/2 or less water if very strong)
1/2 c. sugar
1 t. salt
1 c. whipped cream
2 t. French mustard, if desired

Beat eggs to yellow foam. Add slowly still beating, sugar, salt and mustard. Stir in vinegar gradually and cook in a double boiler until thick enough, stirring constantly. When cold, add whipped cream.

("If cooked too long, it may separate. Use thinned lemon juice instead of vinegar for fruit salad mayonnaise.")

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Corn and Minced Ham Fritters

1 1/3 c. flour
1 1/2 t. baking powder
1/4 t. salt
1 egg (slightly beaten)
1/4 c. milk
1 c. cooked corn
1/2 c. minced, cooked ham

Sift dry ingredients. Add egg combined with milk, corn and ham. Beat until batter is free from lumps. Melt and heat enough fat to cover the bottom of a large heavy frying pan. Drop in the mixture by the tablespoonful. Fry until brown on one side, then turn over and brown the other side.

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Corn Fritters

3 ears of sweet corn (boiled or raw) - about a cup of corn
1 c. milk
1 egg
Flour enough to make a batter
A little salt
1 t. baking powder

Fry them like the fritters in the above recipe.

Margie Beers Ozanne's 1878 - 1975

Christmas Pudding

2 c. sweet milk
2 c. suet (ground)
1 t. salt (heaping)
1 c. raisins
1 c. currants
40 prunes
1/4 lb. citron
Nutmeg (a little)
4 eggs
2 t. baking powder
3 1/2 c. flour

Sift together dry ingredients. Wash and dry fruit and sprinkle with part of the flour, putting prunes in whole. Mix fruit into dry ingredients. Mix together milk, suet and eggs. Blend in the dry ingredients and fruit. Pour into 3 large baking powder cans (greased and floured). Cans should not be more than 2/3 full. Steam for 3 hours. Serve with a sweet sauce.

("Cans should have lids on with holes to let out steam. Waxed paper tied on with holes punched in it will do, if there are no lids. I set the cans in a deep kettle with water with a match stick or old spoon under while boiling. I put a lid on the kettle. The water should simmer, not boil fast, as the pudding should have time to rise while cooking.")

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Beef Loaf

5 rounded cups of finely ground round steak
1 c. chopped suet
1 1/2 c. fine bread crumbs
2 c. milk
2 eggs
Salt & pepper to taste

Mix ingredients thoroughly with hands. A little sage or parsley can be added. Mould into an oblong loaf and drop into a well-greased spider. Be sure surface is smooth and free from cracks. Cover with a dust of flour and good-sized pieces of butter. Put on grate in hot oven until seared over and slightly brown. Then change to lower part of oven and bake only 1 hour altogether.

(The "spider" referred to is an iron frying pan, originally one with attached legs for use over an open fire. It appears that the pan should initially be put under the broiler of a modern oven and then baked in the oven, perhaps at 375 degrees. This recipe may have been Jennie Fitch Beers, given its reference to a spider.)

Alice Beers Kephart's *1884 - 1965*

Scotch Orange Marmalade

Slice 1 orange, 1 lemon and 1 grapefruit fine, rejecting cores, seeds and all membranes but keeping the skins. Measure the pulp and add three times the water. Let stand in earthen dish overnight. Next morning boil for 10 minutes only. Let stand overnight again. Following morning add pint for pint of sugar and boil about 2 hours, until it jellies. Use a wooded spoon and when 2 drops come off the spoon, it is done. Makes 9 glasses.

(Alice was one of Jennie Fitch Beers' daughters. "I made the above, and it was bitter because I just stirred across and did not take out the membranes, and my husband won't eat it. Try half the amount until you learn if your husband likes it. It takes lots of sugar, so it is better to make a small amount first.")

Margie Beers Ozanne's *1878 - 1975*

Cherry Cake

1 t. soda dissolved in 1 c. cherries & juice (unsweetened)
1 egg (well-beaten) 1 c. sugar 1 c. flour 1 c. nuts

Mix in above order. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes in a 9-inch square greased tin. Serve with whipped cream.



The students and teachers of School District 2, Perry Township, Indiana (c. 1910)

Jake Kell is the small boy in front. Carolyn and Elizabeth Kell are also present, as are Grace and Maurice Fitch, John's children.

The school was known as "The Fitch School" due to the number of Fitches who were educated there over the years.

Jake Kell and Mary Louise Fitch, who attended from 1st to 4th grade, are probably the only surviving Fitch students of this school.

The school was closed around 1918-19, when the Eel River-Perry Township school was built. Subsequently, it was demolished.

- Courting Disaster from Page 1 -

jumped to the ground and ran across the creek, the short cut, for he must tell the news.

"'There goes our advance agent,' I remarked bitterly. It took us ten minutes to drive to the ford to go across the creek, to open and close the gate at the foot of the lane leading up to my home.

"Why didn't I tell him about my family? Well, I was too proud. If he must see all of us before he asked me to be his wife, well, that was his privilege. How could I tell him how primitively we lived, no running water, no conveniences such as he had been accustomed to in the city? How could I tell him that he might have to share a bed with one of my brothers, sleep in a room with a half dozen other boys who never before had seen a high hat at close range, or spats, or such a high collar? How could I tell him these things and many more? He came to see, he would have to learn the truth for himself and either like it or leave."

We children asked, aghast at the telling of this, our mother's own true love story, "Well, what happened?'

"Everything that you could imagine. The boys made fun of him and aped his manners, fought for the privilege of wearing his hat and made life generally miserable for him.

"No, he couldn't take it, and that weekend was the most miserable I ever spent anywhere in my life. He was cool to me on our journey back to school, and, no, he never proposed. That is how close you children came to having a different father."

"How did you meet father," we asked?

"We taught at the same school, and naturally we became acquainted. My family met and liked your father. He was accustomed to the hard ways of country life and was no stranger to farming."

On December 24, 1873, Levi Beers and Jennie were wed at the Fitch Homestead.

"Jennie Fitch is my name,
And single be my station.
And happy may the gentleman be,
When he makes the alteration."

Behind a locket photo of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and the above poem.



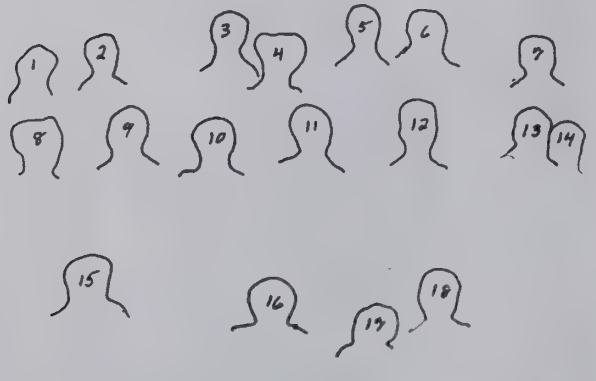
Levi Beers, the teacher who passed the Fitch family inspection and became the "gentleman who made the alteration" by marrying Jennie Fitch.

A Gathering of Perry's and Fitelia's Children

(circa 1907, location unknown)



Identification of Above Photo



1 Pearl Fitch (P)
2 ?
3 Otis Gloyd (F)
4 Della Gloyd (F)
5 Kelsey Fitch (P)
6 George Fitch (P)
7 Homer Bowser
8 Norma Gloyd Moudy (F)
9 Claude Fitch (P)
10 Ethiel Badiac
11 William Fitch (P)
12 Stella Gloyd (F)
13 Frank Fitch (P)
14 ?
15 Victor W. Fitch (P)
16 Fred W. Fitch (P)
17 ?
18 ?

(P) = Perry Descendant; (F) = Fitelia Descendant

Does anyone know why Homer Bowser and Ethel Badiac are in this photo? Can anyone identify the ?'s above? Probably in Perry's or Fitelia's families.

More Fitches Identified in Photos

Thanks to Elaine Houser Kirbach, Linwood Fitch and Mary Bowlby Baird, we have identified more faces in the photos on this and the following two pages.

Mary noted that she was wearing the same dress and eyeglasses (and had the same frown) in the large "barn" photo as in the children's photo. A closer look at the other children in both photos confirmed that the children's photo was also taken at the 1932 Reunion

This Page: **1907 Gathering of Perry & Fitelia's Families**

14 - Hillis Fitch (P)
15 - Forrest Fitch (P)

Page 17: (Top) **Date Unknown - Fitch Reunion**

1 - Forrest Fitch
2 - Kenneth F. Harvey
3 - Victor Fitch
4 - Bert Fitch
5. Lucinda Fitch
6 - Viola (Mrs. Forrest) Fitch
7 - John Fitch
8 - Nina Fitch
9 - Effie Fitch
10 - Ruth Shafer

Page 17: (Bottom) **1932 Fitch Reunion Children**

1 - Betty Fitch
2 - Sharon Davis
3 - Lucinda Fitch
4 - Suzanne Fitch
5 - Joan Gladbach
6 - Mary S. Bowlby
7 - Robert S. Nobles
8 - Joan Houser
9 - Enid Davis
10 - Helen H. Hawver
11 - Mary Belle Hawver
12 - Elaine Houser

Old Reunion Photos (Revisited)

(The photos on this, the preceding and the following pages appeared in the last newsletter. They are reprinted here with expanded identifications of our Fitch kin.)



See page 16 for identification chart. We have a number of group photos of this reunion, none of which have any identification on them. Can anyone guess the date? Amos, Harvey, Ida, Fitelia and Francelia attended, so it has to be prior to 1935, when Fitelia died. If anyone would like to see the other photos, write or call Bill Cassell.



Children at the 1932 Fitch Reunion (see page 16 for identification chart)

1932 Fitch Reunion at Amos Pitch's Home in DeKalb County, Indiana (Revisited)



1 David Fitch
2 Ivan Fitch
3 Harry Wert
4 Nancy (Mrs. Ivan) Fitch
5 Margaret (Mrs. Rolland) Fitch
6 Iolene Gloyd
7 Ollie Fitch
7a Marie F. Houser
8 Arthur Houser
9 Bert Centennial Fitch
10 Marguerette F. Wert
11 Rolland Fitch
12 Gladys Fitch
12a Pearl F. Gladbach
13 Kenneth Beers
14 John B. Fitch
15 Forrest Fitch
16 Otis Fitch
17 Jake Kell
18 Elsie Kell
19 Rawles Moudy
20 Amos Fitch
21 Richard Houser
22 Bess F. Kell
23 Harvey Fitch
24 Audrey Hursh
25 Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch
26 Belle Fitch
27 Emma F. Hartzell
28 Nina F. Emrick
29 Sarah F. Stratton
30 Cecil F. McComb
31 Fitelia F. Gloyd
32 Ida Alice F. Mason
33 Erma F. More
34 Helen F. Hawver
35 Stella Gloyd
36 Verma F. Smith
37 David Davis
38 Enid Davis
39 Phyllis McComb
40 Elaine Houser
41 Mary Belle Hawver
42 Robert Gloyd
43 Joan Houser
44 Sharon Davis *
45 Arvilla (Mrs. Otis) Gloyd
A Suzanne Fitch
B Joan Gladbach
C Lucinda Fitch
D Betty Fitch
E Mary S. Bowlby
G Robert S. Nobles
H Linwood Fitch (baby)
I Bill Fitch
J Jane Hawver (baby)
K Claude Bowlby
L Helen S. Bowlby
M Marguerette S. Nobles
N Harold Stratton
P Helen H. Hawver

* = Correction
Note: Photo was not taken by Kenneth Beers, since he is in the photo.

The Fitches and the Military

We know how Nathaniel Fitch thought about military service during the Civil War. He was adamant that none of his sons should enlist, even though many of their peers, including those at the Perry Center Seminary, marched off to war.

When his oldest son was drafted into the Union Army, Nathaniel paid for a substitute to go in his place, which was legal at the time. When the boys would get excited by "the drums of war", he would say, "Take your hoe and get back to the field."

The Fitches supported the Union war effort, as evidenced by the sewing and displaying of a large United States flag by Nathaniel's daughters, but that support excluded sending any Fitches to fight.

A Fitch family World War I service flag has six stars on it, indicating that six Fitches served during that conflict: Fred Gladbach, Hurshel Fitch, Victor Fitch, Fred Fitch, Kenneth Beers and Willis Jensen.

From his autobiography and correspondence, we know that Kenneth Beers, Jennie's oldest son, went overseas to England as a YMCA secretary, which was a sort of military service. He wore a military uniform with a YMCA patch on his sleeve, instead of a military emblem.

In the Special Newsletter sent out this last summer to Fitches born before 1930, I asked for information about Fitch military service.

Betty Fitch Richards wrote, "I met my husband in Scott's Bowling Alley in Fort Wayne. Months later, war was declared, and we became engaged. When his number came up, he had to go into the Army and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, like so many from Indiana.

"There were four girls and one of the mothers who drove to Fort Sill. Quite an experience! Had a couple of flat tires while in the Ozarks. That's when tires were hard to get. We'd stand along the road and act helpless. Always, a nice young man would come along and change the tire for us. That's when people were helpful.

"Finally, we got to Fort Sill. We had a great time. Two of us were married in a double wedding in the Chapel in Fort Sill (on May 15, 1942, when Betty was 19). I guess I was a camp follower, living in Missouri and North Carolina."

Her husband, Forrest Richards, was a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, which made the big jump over the Rhine River.

Betty also outlined the military service of her father's family (Fred W. Fitch, grandson of Perry Fitch).

Fred W. Fitch was in the Army in World War I and fought in the front trenches. Alice June Fitch, his first child, was born on September 18, 1918, while he was still in France. Alice's husband, Raymond Getty, fought in World War II in the south Pacific with the Army.

Fred's second child, Lucinda Fitch, was a M/Lance Sergeant in the WAACS in World War II.

Betty's two sons also served. Michael Richards was in the Air Force stationed in Turkey, and Randall Richards was in the Army stationed in Germany.

Fred's fourth child, William S. Fitch II, was a Navy corpsman in the south Pacific in World War II and was recalled to active duty for the Korean War. He stayed in the Active Navy Reserve and retired with 42 years of service.

Ruth Ann's (Fred's fifth child) husband, John Sanford, was in the Navy during World War II, and her son, Steve Sanford, served in the Marines for twelve years, having two tours of Vietnam. Her daughter, Linda Sanford, was in the Air Force.

Eugene Click, the husband of Fred's sixth child, Mary Lou, was in the Navy in World War II. Fred's eighth child, Kenneth Fitch, was in the Navy's submarine service in peacetime, and his daughter, Sharon Fitch Haller, was in the Air Force for twelve years, stationed in Spain and serving in Desert Storm.

Fred's tenth child, John E. Fitch, was in the Navy on an aircraft carrier.

(For one family, that's a lot of military service!)

Bryce Ozanne, a grandson of Jennie Fitch Beers, served as a doctor in the European theater in World War II.

Both Douglas and Robert Beers, grandsons of Jennie's, served as pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and subsequently in the Air Force.

The Newsletter editor, Bill Cassell, served as an enlisted man in the Marine Corps Reserve (ultimately a company gunnery sergeant) for eight years, about 100 years after his great grandfather, Levi Beers, served in the Union Army.

If any other Fitches wish to share their military backgrounds or experiences, write to the Newsletter editor.



Jennie Fitch's future husband, Levi Beers (R), joined the Union Army in March, 1865, but a case of measles prevented him from marching to war with his regiment. By the time he recovered, Richmond had fallen, and there was no need to send him after his regiment. He used his $500 enlistment bonus to pay for his college education at Baldwin-Wallace College.

Our Thanks to Bob Fitch

Last fall Robert E. Fitch, Mathias Fitch's great grandson, sent me a selection of Mathias' journals and a number of old photos for copying. Some of the photos have been reproduced in this newsletter, including those on this page.



(Left) Schuyler Fitch's family on 12-15-1904. (L-R Rear) Schuyler (age 35), Rowene (age 12), Leah (Schuyler's wife age 33, (front) Merlin (age 3) and Robert (age 10). Schuyler was Mathias' oldest child, who moved with his family to Washington State around the turn of the century.

Notes from Fitch Cousins on the Photos in the Last Newsletter:

Betty and Lucinda Fitch (bottom, pg 17) are the daughters of Fred and Bess Fitch. The Lucinda Fitch at the top of that page was that Lucinda Fitch's grandmother.

Linwood Fitch, son of Forrest and Viola Fitch, writes, "Jane Hawver, a descendant of David Fitch, (the baby in the basket in the barn photo) and I went to school together for 11 plus years before I knew that we were cousins. I learned this from my father when I was about to ask her out on a date."

Lin adds, parenthetically, "By the way , my brother Victor, who wrote that one article for you...I didn't know he could write." (Well, brothers will be brothers.)

Mary Baird, daughter of Helen and Claude Bowlby, writes, "I had never seen that picture of my mother (as a child in the last Newsletter), and when I saw it, I truly gasped because there surely was a picture of my granddaughter, Emma Alice Boast, daughter to Mary Helen Shryer Boast, my first child. Strange for cloning to take so long!"

Elaine Kirbach, daughter of Marie and Arthur Houser, thinks that the middle girl sitting next to Stella Gloyd in the photo on page 17 in the last Newsletter might be Nina Fitch, who was Harvey Fitch's daughter.

The Fitch Homestead: An Update

While it does not appear feasible for a family trust to purchase and manage the Fitch Homestead, there is still a chance that someone in the family could own the house and some of the land again. More as it develops.

Family Representatives Needed

The task of keeping track of 900 plus Fitch descendants is considerable, and it would be wonderful if we could get someone from each of Nathaniel's children's families (e.g. Perry, Mathias) to take over that responsibility and subsequently share that information with the Family Historian and Newsletter Editor. Please, help.

If you have family stories, photos, memorabilia, etc. and would like to share them with your near and distant cousins, write or call me. Also, please keep me informed of new addresses, births, marriages, divorces and deaths.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173
617-862-6172



Belle and John Fitch, who was Mathias' second son. (See page 6 for an earlier photo of John. Date of this photo is unknown

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1997



Helen Chloe Fitch, daughter of David N. Fitch, at about age 14. As a child in the 1920's, her nephew, Stephen D. Fitch, thought that Helen was really special...a very progressive (liberated) type who wore men's tall lace-up boots, which he coveted. (c. 1906)

Lost "Beets Pickles" Recipe

Thanks to Alice Deck, who got it from Carolyn Davis at the '94 Reunion, we can pass along the recipe for the Fitch beet pickles (see page 13 of Fall '93 Newsletter.)

"Strain and measure the juice from any size can of sliced beets. Add an equal amount of sugar and half the amount of vinegar to the juice and boil with a teaspoon of whole allspice. Pour over beets and let stand."

In This Issue:

1880's Map of Fitch Family Property
Recollections of Allen & Charles Oakley Fitch
Obituaries and Anniversary Photo of Sarah E. Fitch
Photos of Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch Heirlooms
Another "Guess Who" Photograph
A Quick Genealogical Reference Chart
The Upcoming 1999 Fitch Family Reunion

Fitelia Fitch Descendant

Eel River Cemetery

More than a century ago, area families sought solace as they buried their relatives in a small cemetery along one of northwest Allen Counties busiest roads.

Solace my have been found in the knowledge that their loved ones were gone but wouldn't be forgotten as long as the road connecting Heller's Corners and the Blue and Gray Highway (now U.S. 33) was well travelled.

As times changed and bridges were built over the Eel River, the once-busy road became a back road. The community of Heller's Corners all but disappeared, leaving only a few houses, a small pond and the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church.

See Cemetery - Page 17



Robert Fitch, grandson of Mathias Fitch, at about age 4, wearing "fancy duds" for this formal photo setting, probably in Fort Wayne. (c. 1902)

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Jim MacInnes	**Suzy Enyeart**
Alyce Adams	**Richard Beers**
Alice & Jerry Deck	**Susan Bowling**
Etta Fitch	**Bob and Fran Ozanne**
Sr. M. Alma Louise	**Norman & Carolyn Moudy**
William D. Fitch	**Sara Brogren Farren**
William S. Fitch	**Charlotte Wuepper**
Bill Le Vay	**Helen F. Silha**

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

How Can You Help?

More financial help wouldn't hurt. I am projecting a deficit of almost $700 after this newletter is mailed. You may rest assured that as long as I have Fitch history to share, there will be a Fitch Newsletter, and I will do my best to see that every descendant family gets a copy, even if I have to fund it myself. (It has never really been self-supporting, as my late mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell, always sent a check for what-ever annual shortfall occurred.)

More family photos and stories would also be appreciated. Thanks to Alice Deck and Anne Nobis, I have some "new" old Fitch photos to share. Others sent me clippings and stories. Thank you all! But we need more! The older, the better; but, with so many young kin, family stories and photos from the '30's, '40's and 50's would be great.

And finally, we need to keep our vital records up-to-date. Who's getting married to whom? Who's having children? Who's moving? Who's divorced? Who's passed on? As my old IBM computer finally gave out this summer and I've moved to a Mac-based system, I'll be creating a new data base for the family's vital records this spring. It would be great to have updates from all the branches of the family for this project. The spring of 1994 was the last time that we did a comprehensive update.

For each family member, including those who join the family through marriage or adoption, I need a first name, middle initial and last name, address, and date and place of birth. Dates of marriage or death, if applicable.

My address and phone number are on page 20.

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance - 1/2/96	$360.46
Contributions from Fitch Descendants	$610.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	$970.46
Expenses	
Composition	$ 36.75
Printing	$467.25
Envelopes	$ 32.02
Postage	$127.80
3rd Class Mailing Permit Renewal	$ 85.00
Remailing Newsletters***	$ 84.55
Winter '96 Newsletter Sub-total	$823.37
Photography Supplies & Printing	$ 36.76
Copying Vital Records	$ 15.35
Miscellaneous Postage	$ 6.72
Other Expenses Sub-total	$ 58.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	$882.20
Ending Balance - 1/2/97	$ 88.26
Estimated Cost of This Newsletter	$700.00
Estimated Cost of Updating Vital Records	$ 75.00
PROJECTED BALANCE - 5/1/97	($686.00)

*** **IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE**

Last year we spent $84.55 reprinting and remailing newsletters to kin who had moved and had not informed us. Our 3rd class mailing permit allows us to secure the forwarding address, if it is still available, of kin who have moved. We pay $.50 for each address correction, and the Post Office does not return the newsletter that we originally sent out. In some cases, the forwarding address has expired, and I have to make a phone call to a related family member to get the new address.

All of this costs money and takes time, neither of which is abundant right now. (At 54, I'm in graduate school studying to become an elementary school teacher.) It would be greatly appreciated if more of you would send me address changes as they occur, both your own and those of others in your family. Many thanks in advance.

The Next Fitch Family Reunion

Most of those who replied to our question in the last Newsletter about when to hold the next Fitch Reunion thought that 1999 would be best. That would be five years after the last Reunion in 1994. Since many people would have to travel some distance to get to Fort Wayne, it was thought that more frequent reunions might dilute attendance.

Plus, the effort that planning a Reunion requires is significant for the local Fort Wayne Fitch volunteers.

And, who knows? Maybe by then the Fitch Homestead will be back in Fitch family hands. We hope so.

Now we need to know what's the best date for a Fitch Reunion in 1999. Historically, they were held on a weekend close to the 4th of July, although the 1994 Reunion was on Saturday, August 20.

We are thinking about having a casual reception on Friday evening for those who can make it, with the actual Reunion on Saturday afternoon. Maybe a restaurant or hotel dinner on Saturday evening, with a casual brunch gathering on Sunday morning.

What do you think?

A Quick Reference to Our Fitch Family Names

Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch

- **Perry & Sarah Fitch**
  - Fitch
  - Pendleton
  - Lawrence
  - Evans
  - Getty
  - Head
  - Lawrence
  - Richards
  - Sanford
  - Click
  - Brewer
  - Hamilton
  - Holocher
  - Dawson
  - DeWitt
  - Belanger
  - Kistler
  - Owen
  - Anderson
  - Ragan
  - Wright
  - Glowaty
  - Gay
  - Akers
  - McCarthy
  - Burzloff
  - Walberry
  - Patton
  - Bucker
  - Horton
  - Colby
  - Guest
  - Wyatt
  - More
  - Smith
  - Gladbach
  - Ewing
- **Mathias & Frances Fitch**
  - Fitch
  - Hartnett
  - Bunker
  - Coen
  - Lyon
  - Smith
  - Blackburn
  - Caple
  - Colvin
  - Lawson
  - Culbertson
  - Holcomb
  - Fulk
  - Jones
  - Lortie
  - Wies
  - Lockwood
  - Romans
  - Ober
  - Furlough
  - Wortman
  - Whitehead
  - Kell
  - Davis
  - Fitch
  - Fitch
  - Honeick
  - Bnce
  - Sonderoth
  - Maurer
  - Samaniego
  - Seeger
  - Diffman
  - Jokay
  - Monroe
  - Bailey
  - DeBolt
  - Lyons
  - Barnes
  - Knowles
  - Frey
  - Arnold
  - Gray
  - Bushur
  - Leaycraft
  - Cawthon
  - Cobos
  - Lira
  - Neally
- **Jennie & Levi Beers**
  - Beers
  - Ozanne
  - Lyon
  - Pufella
  - Wille
  - Cassell
  - Spangler
  - Peterson
  - Sherick
  - Harrison
  - Farrell
  - Policht
  - Knafl
  - Ozanne Metz
  - Wheeler-Ozanne
  - Gierlich
  - Hensley-Beers
  - Johnston
  - Weber
  - Adams
  - Healey
  - Hornbuckle
  - Hunt
  - Kephart
- **Charles & Lou Ann Fitch**
  - Fitch
  - Harvey
  - Hart
  - Chamberlain
  - Shirley
  - Shirk
  - Nobis
  - Baden
  - Bowling
  - Winkler
  - Pearson
  - Milon
  - Kiernan
  - Vitankulu
  - Durkee
  - Anderson
- **Amos & Nancy Fitch**
  - Fitch
  - Houser
  - Kirbach
  - Wagner
  - Dove
  - Noll
  - Garig
  - Wert
- **Fitella & Jerome Gloyd**
  - Gloyd
  - Pusey
  - Moyer
  - Emenhiser
  - Liggett
  - Brown
  - Walker
  - Hoot
  - Moudy
  - Stofler
  - McDaniel
  - Leach
  - Vanderloop
  - Cumberland
- **Francella & Christian Fair**
  - Fair
  - Bressler
  - Roberts
  - Macon
  - Spahn
  - Conners
  - White
  - Cherene
  - Horn
  - Below
  - Hurtig
  - Scully
  - Sleeper
  - Hulsizer
  - Wall
  - Snyder
  - Young
  - Maxwell
- **Harvey & Etta Fitch**
  - Hursh
  - Emrick
  - McComb
  - Freck
  - Huber
  - Kitaka
  - Sloffer
  - Tom
  - Mutter
  - Kelham
  - Walters
  - Gatza
  - Thrush
  - Cox
  - Beverly
  - Mossberger
  - Yarde
  - Teets
  - Yingling
  - Degitz
  - Fitch
  - Brown
  - Ropp
  - Zirkle
  - Green
  - Inman
  - Miller
  - Vandermeer
  - Woolfver
  - Smith
  - Lucas
  - Gaff
  - McCrea
  - Oliver
  - Gefler
  - Downs
  - Zorger
  - Hudson
  - Hawkins
  - Brown
  - Enyeart
  - Russell
- **Sarah & Irvin Stratton**
  - Stratton
  - Jeschke
  - Bowlby
  - Schafer
  - Newell
  - Radspieler
  - MacInnes
  - Shryer
  - Boast
  - Boyle
  - Nobles
- **Allen & Emma Fitch**
  - No Descendants
- **Ida & Melville Mason**
  - No Descendants
- **Emma & Allen Hartzell**
  - No Descendants
- **David & Emma Fitch**
  - Fitch
  - Wuepper
  - Deck
  - Davis
  - Birdsall
  - Mann
  - Shaffer
  - Vegeler
  - Silha
  - Reimann
  - Hoza
  - Hawver
  - Brogren
  - Schofield
  - Florsheim
  - Le Vay
  - Richardson



Visiting cousins: L-R (rear) Audrey Fitch and Bertha Beers, (front) Alice Beers and Nina Fitch. Audrey and Nina were daughters of Mathias Fitch. Bertha and Alice were daughters of Mathias' sister, Jennie Fitch Beers. (c. 1907)

Audrey & Nina are daughters of Harvey Fitch, not Mathias



Bert Centennial Fitch, Perry Fitch's sixth son, who was born on the nation's 100th birthday (July 4, 1876). Pictured here with his grandsons, Oscar Alan and Kenneth Fitch. (c. 1933)

About Allen Fitch

South St. Paul Stockyards Surround Pioneer's Home

(An article from the Minneapolis Tribune in 1948 or 49)

South St. Paul's sprawling stockyards have grown up and almost surrounded the frame house at 101 Fourth Avenue N. But Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fitch who built it back at the turn of the century expect to live out the rest of their days in it.

Fitch, still erect at 92, came to South St. Paul in 1887 to begin the first livestock commission business with his brother, the late Charles Fitch. "We had a stockyard in Clarksville, Iowa, but Iowa was pretty slow," he said, recalling the early days.

And when cattle had to be transported north to a buyer in Grafton, N.D., for instance the trip was a long one and a hard one, Fitch said. The train would stop in Minneapolis or St. Paul so the cattle cold be fed and watered. When the Fitch brothers decided to move their business, they picked South St. Paul.

"There was a company here, Brown and Spear, it was called -- we bought our bookkeeping equipment from them." Today, the firm is known as Brown and Bigelow, with a gigantic plant on University Avenue between the Twin Cities

The Fitch brothers bought a mimeograph machine and sent out hundreds of letters. Before long, business was booming.

That's when Fitch went back to Iowa and married Emma Green (May 25, 1893). They've been married 55 years now. "And we're still happy, " beamed 88 year old Mrs. Fitch.

Fitch recalls when the Mississippi River flooded the stockyards. Men worked into the night for many nights, placing sandbags to stop the flow of water and save the stock

He knows the winter of 1887-88 was "absolutely the coldest in history." He remembers the dances held at South Park and the popularity of the meals at Mrs. McCauleffe's boarding house.

Mrs. Fitch recalls the many blocks she had to walk making church collections the fact that the town "wanted Al to run for mayor."

"My brother Charlie was mayor, but I didn't run because I had enough trouble without that," he said.

Today, Fitch and Co. still has an office in the Exchange building, overlooking the yards.

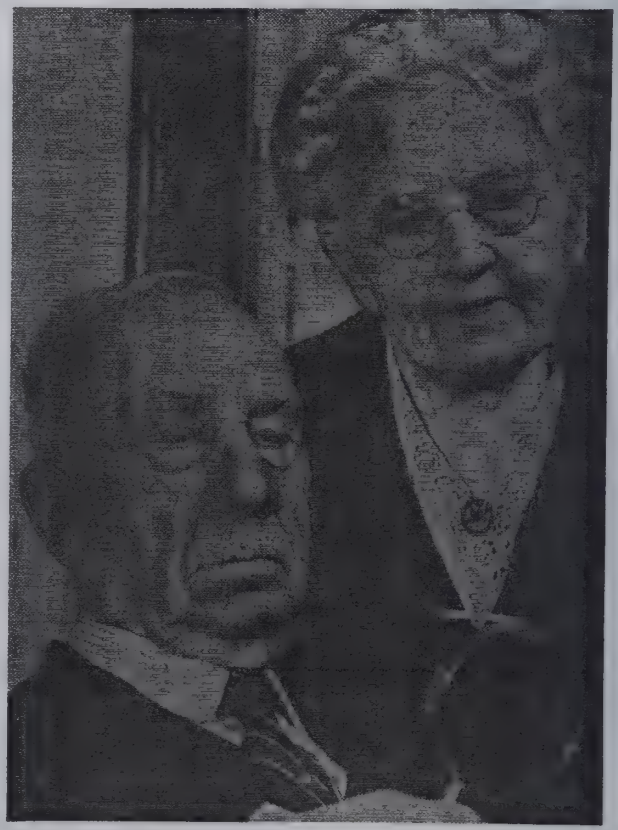
But, it's Oakley Fitch, the son of Charles, who is in charge today. "We don't do much anymore but just sit," Fitch said. "Most of our friends have passed on," echoed Mrs. Fitch.

Sometimes, Fitch walks down to take a look at the yards. But mostly, the two stay up on the hill, oblivious to the bustle down below them.

(Allen died in 1952 at 95 years old, while Emma lived to be 94. They had no children.)



Emma and Allen Fitch, who was Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's 11th child, born in 1857



Allen and Emma Fitch, as they appeared in the photo that accompanied the Tribune article (c. 1948 or 49)

An Excerpt from the:

Memoirs of Charles Oakley Fitch

(Charles Oakley Fitch, known as "Oak," was the son of Charles and Lou Ann Fitch and the grandson of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.)

My father and mother came by prairie schooner to northern Iowa, Butler County, near what is now Clarksville, Iowa, between Clarksville and Plainfield (shortly after they were married on April 18, 1868). They built a one room log cabin on the prairie. It was rugged living on the prairie. There was no wood, and during the winter they twisted hay into bundles and burned it to keep warm. One winter they burned corn, as it was not worth anything anyhow.

Before father left Indiana, he went with some of his neighbor boys to a college at Ft. Wayne. My uncle Allen (Fitch) told me once that he visited Charlie at the college, and that these tall raw boned country boys all chewed tobacco in school and spit most anywhere. Anyhow, father got a teacher's certificate, and when the country around him in Iowa settled up some, he taught school for a number of years in the little country school house and also had sing fests nights with all the neighbors.

Mother was midwife to the wives of the Iowa settlers, and, when the call came, she threw her side saddle on the mare, day or night and away she went.

Father kept a diary each day, temperature, etc. One item one day: "Shot two prairie chickens on the South 10." Another day: "Shot ducks, etc." Another item: "Hauled my hogs to town today and sold them for two cents per pound, live weight." Very cheap compared to present day's prices.

My uncle Allen came from Indiana and settle on land nearby but did not get married until many years later, when he married Emma Lewillian Green on May 25, 1893, when he moved to Minnesota. He batched it and also spent a great deal of his time at father's place.

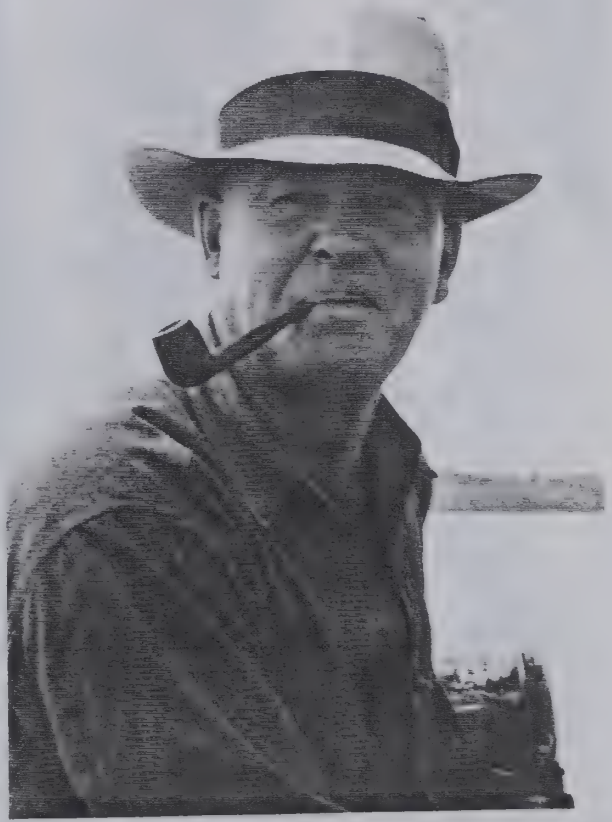
There were lots of wolves, raccoons, etc. which they killed, and at one time father had 30 dogs of different kinds for hunting. Mother used to have long, narrow pans to bake corn bread in every day to feed the dogs. They saved the pelts, especially the raccoons.

There was a big spring on the farm, and Father had it walled up so as to make a large pool some 20 feet square and 12 feet deep. He was dealing in horses then and had a big bunch of them, some of them with colts by their sides. When they came to drink, it was my older brother Nathaniel's job to see that the colts did not get kicked into the pool. One day Nat got kicked in. Father missed him and went to the pool and saw him lying on the bottom of the pool. He dove in and brought him up and with the assistance of Mother and (sister) May, they rolled him over a barrel to get the water out of his lungs, but to no avail.

I can remember the funeral, as Harry (another brother) and I had new shoes and new straw hats. The casket was placed in a lumber wagon, and Nat was buried in a small country cemetery, one of the first to be buried there. Nat had just turned 8 a few days before he died.



Marjorie Vivian Fitch with her parents, Charles Oakley Fitch and Genevieve S. Varian Fitch. Marjorie's dress of white satin trimmed with turquoise velvet was handmade by her aunt.



Charles Oakley Fitch, who lived to be 80 years old, out fishing (date unknown)



Probably the Fitch Reunion of either 1927 or 1932, as both were held at Amos Fitch's home, and his home and gingerbread porch appear in the background (cropped off here.)



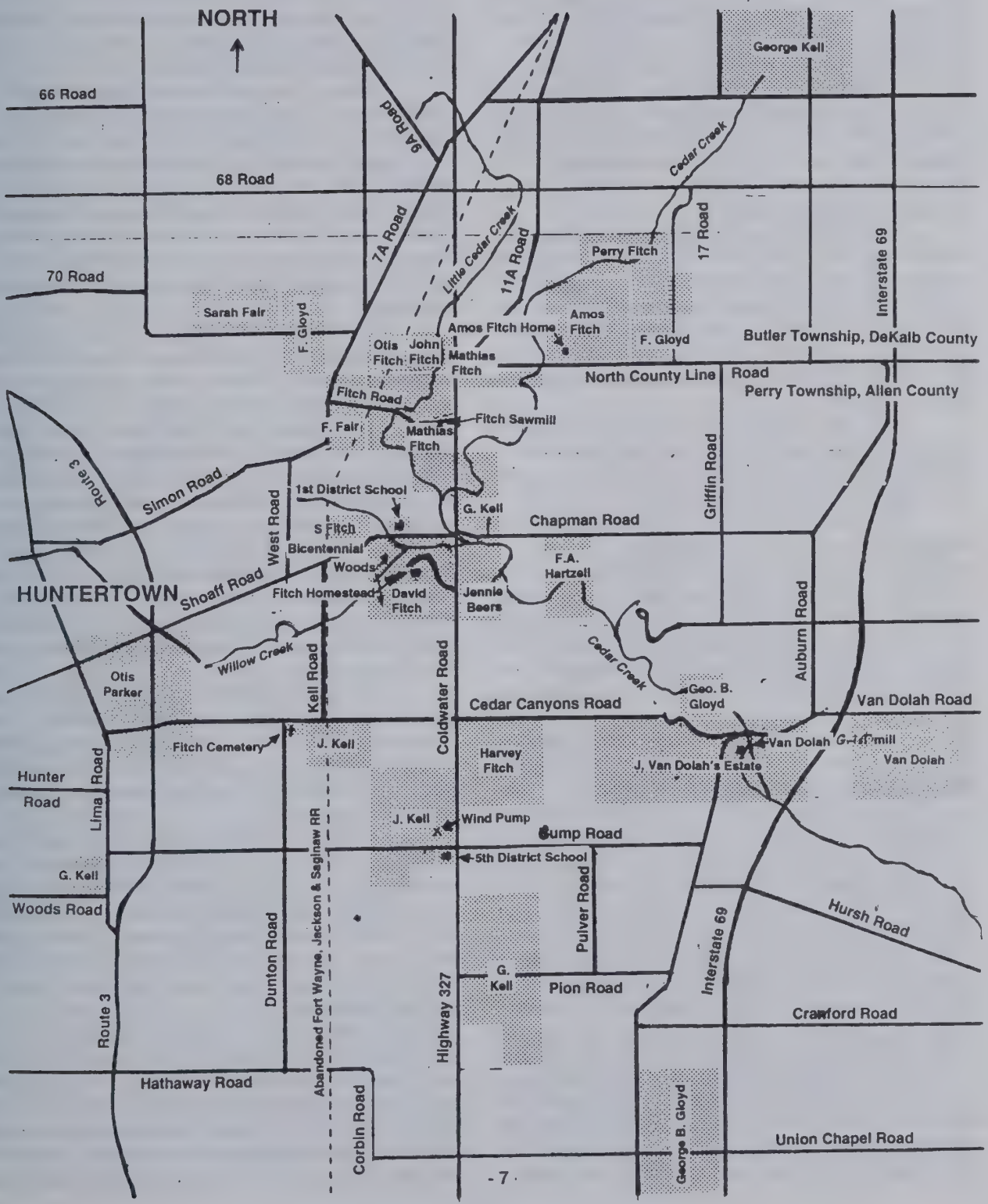
Another Fitch Reunion, possibly in 1933. If you can identify anyone in these photos, mark up a copy of this page and send it to the Fitch Family Historian.

Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch Family Map

Shaded areas represent land in Allen and DeKalb Counties that was owned by the Fitch family or its relatives around 1880.

The locations of the mills, schools, houses, etc. are approximate.

As a indication of size, the Fitch Homestead quadrant is 160 acres.



Recollections

The Stratton Family

by Marguerite Stratton Nobles, granddaughter of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch and Irvin Stratton. Written in 1974.

Any stories about the Stratton family for the most part have to be about Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton. She was born 10th in the family of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth Fitch (on March 29, 1855) and was the first child born in the new house, known now as the Fitch Homestead. She went to the Fitch School and must have spent some time at the Seminary, for she recalled one of her big brothers putting her on the rail fence to watch the Union troops marching from Coldwater with fife and drum and supply wagons to entrain at Fort Wayne. At some time she must have spent some time at Valpariso University and at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

When her older sister, Jennie Fitch Beers, was teaching in Wabash in 1877 or 1878, Sarah went to Wabash to go to school and to help Jennie with her children and her house. At Wabash she met a young man, Irvin Franklin Stratton, who was reading law with his brother-in-law, Alvah Taylor. Later Irvin, with his brother Jerome, set up a law practice at Fort Wayne and subsequently won a judgeship in Allen County.

Irvin often went to visit Sarah during those years. She taught school in several townships, and Jerome Gloyd (her sister Fitelia's husband) was always urging her to take a school that had bad discipline problems.

She recalled one summer at home when she helped with the building of the Amos Fitch house. She and her mother cooked for the workers, and she drove a wagon over to Amos' each day with their noon dinner. She and her sisterIda both taught at country schools. Ida was a graduate of Fort Wayne College and also taught at New Haven, where she met Melville Mason, who later graduated from Michigan Dentistry College. Ida and Mel were married in 1890.

Sarah and Irvin were married at a double wedding with her sister Emma and Allen Hartzell on December 28, 1881. Sarah wore a plum colored velvet gown with a white bonnet with seed pearls. Her sister Fitelia was a beautiful seamstress and had taught her how to sew. I think that the velvet gown later became a suit for her oldest son Leander.

The folks built a house on Washington Avenue, near Broadway, in Fort Wayne. Irvin was always most interested in horses and especially the trotters. There were always races at local fairs, and the track was used at Sweeney Park. I think Sarah was a little more conservative and did not care too much about money spent for such horses.

Irvin was having problems with his brother, who liked his bottle a little too much. It was not good for a judge to be trying to help out with him, so the folks sold out and went to Wichita, Kansas, where Irvin had relatives and Sarah had friends. Sarah was closer to Aunt Frank (her sister Francelia Fitch Fair), and I recalled many trips to Alden, Kansas, and visits from the Fair family.

A home was built there, and my early years were at that house. The barn and carriage house were built before the main house, and Harold (her younger brother) was born in the barn where the family had set up housekeeping until the main house was built. This was 1888.

My memories of the house are of a large garden on one side with three beautiful apricot trees next to the house for good eating and shade. Sarah never lived any place that she did not soon have a garden and trees and flowering plants in the house. On the other side past the drive was the peach orchard and strawberry beds.

Kansas was prairie, and the back yard was bare and windswept. Plenty of wind too. I remember seeing a whole line of clothes blown away. That area of Wichita was College Hill, and the folks were there during the Boom and Dust years. I think the folks finally lost a lot of money there. Sarah said that when Oklahoma Territory was opened up, she wanted to go and try for land. Irvin had been asked to go for they said he could eventually be the governor because of his legal training. He was then a judge in Wichita.

The fever to move on West was across the land, and Irvin wanted to go to California. Some of his family had already gone on there and were urging him to come too. A railway car was used, and the stock, the two race horses, and household goods they wanted, with Leander and Irvin went on west to San Bernadino. In a few days a telegram came that Irvin had been killed. He was exercising one of the horses with the sulky and was hit by an electric train. The horse was destroyed, and Irvin only lived a few hours. Irvin had been crippled in early years by a horse, and that might have had something to do with his not controlling the horse. Mother always felt that she should have gone on to California; that she could have won a lawsuit there with the rail company. And that was the end of our Kansas years.

We lived at Lakeside in Fort Wayne from the spring of 1902 until 1909. Those were good years in some ways and in others very difficult for Sarah. She did anything to make a home and keep her family together. For the first year we lived with Ida and Mel Mason, but that wasn't good for either family.

Mother finally built a house on the Loree side of the property that Aunt Ida owned, and we made that our home for the next years. Sarah did the washing for Mel's dental office and took care of Ida's house. She cared for some elderly women and made a home for them. I recall Della Gloyd lived with us a good many years until she was too ill to work. Audrey Fitch spent some time with us too, until she was married.

Leander had a very serious illness while there. The second time he had rheumatic fever, and we nearly lost him. He always wanted to go back west, and he did go and spend some time at the Fairs, where he was very happy. Harold had to drop out of school to help out, and he worked as a call boy for the railroad and later was with a car tracing company for several years. That work took him to

Milwaukee, and he was determined to have more education. So the next we knew, he was in Colorado working his way to go to a prep school to take up mining.

I went to Lakeside School and Clay School, and my older sister Helen only had one year of high school before we left Fort Wayne. I loved the times we got to go to the country, and Sarah took we two girls and spent several summers with Grandmother (Nathaniel's widow).

I remember reunions at that home under the big walnut tree in the yard, several at Ame's home, Mathias', the Gloyds' and even the Hartzell home at New Haven. Sarah always went to help with harvesting times with her various sisters, and I remember a "barn-raising" at the Gloyds' place. Those were good years to remember.

The two boys in the family wound up at the steel mill at the then new Gary, Indiana, and we decided to go there and make a home and help them as well as ourselves. We had really been too close to Aunt Ida and under her dominance too long, and Sarah felt she could and would do better on her own.

I loved the years that I went to high school: It was a new school, a new system and such an adventure. Helen graduated there head of her class. Harold jammed a lot of courses into one year and was able to enter Purdue University. I did not do so well grade-wise, but as I used to tell Sarah, "I passed!".

Sarah built a large house there for there were many young men to room and board that worked in the several plants and mills. She worked very hard, but she was a wonderful manager, and we always had good food and money to do the things that the other school children did and had. Harold and I have been so glad that in her later years we were able to pay her back for all that.

Leander and Helen both married while there at Gary, and they had families and their own lives to work for. Leander's wife Edna was ill, and he wanted to go west after her death (in August 1917). Helen and her husband, Claude Bowlby, had many moves...Hammond, Lafayette, Cincinnati and finally back to Fort Wayne.

I got two years of college at an expression school in Chicago, lived at home and commuted each day. I have always been a voracious reader and although music could have been my best love, we did not have money enough for that expensive education. So speech was the next best thing, and school teaching. I did not do too badly at that.

Sarah and I have always been so proud of the things that Harold (we called him "Strat") has been able to do with his life. From Purdue he wound up in the Isaac Johnson Foundry in New York and was soon plant superintendent there.

In World War I the German liner Leviathan had been impounded in New York harbor, but not before the crew had wrecked her engines. Strat took his pattern makers from the plant, and they rebuilt all of that, and the liner was used as a troop ship during the rest of the war.

In 1920 Strat moved to a foundry in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. In 1928 he and a man from Parkersburg, West Virginia, were urged by the banks to take over a foundry there that was not making it. They bought into it on the steps of the Court House, and it has been Mountain State Steel Foundry since 1928.

And it has been all his know-how and push that has done it. I think that he is a throw-back to his grandfather Nathaniel Fitch. When he gets to pushing a little too much, I tell him, "His Fitch is showing."

Leander go Sarah and me to move with him to Montana. He has remained there ever since and has done his beloved ranching and lived a pretty good life, and raised a nice family.

I taught at a country school and then worked in the county superintendent office. A young man from the War in Europe (i.e. WWI) was a teacher in the high school, and we were quite attracted to each other. Clarence Nobles and I were married in Urbana, Illinois, on July 3, 1920, and we taught one year in Illinois.

We then went to Champaign for him to finish his degrees. Sarah was with us at that time, and from there we went to Virginia, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Clarence became very ill there, and the War caught up with the young lieutenant.

We had only eight years together, and I had a young man to raise (Robert Nobles). Sarah was like a brick wall at my back and said, "You do not stop here." We went to Peabody, at Nashville, and I got my degree there. Then we were going to go with Strat and make our home in Parkersburg. I to teach, I thought, but I wound up in the foundry too and loved it.

And so the English teacher wound up as office manager of a steel foundry. I had no office experience, but with the help of the auditors, I did a good job on the books and hanging onto money.

Strat never married. He had met a girl in New York, and they had planned to marry, but she died suddenly, and no other girl came along to take that place. He wanted me to come to Parkersburg, and we would both make a home for Sarah, ourselves and my son.

My son Bob had always had trouble with asthma, so we decided to send him to a private school in Asheville. It was fine for his health and for his education. He finished there and after that did two degrees at M.I.T. becoming an aeronautical engineer.

We almost lost him when he was on the flying boat, the Mars, when the test pilot crashed, and the plane broke up in Chesapeake Bay. Bob was rescued and came through with a minor concussion. He later worked at Convair in Texas and after a time decided that, if we expected him to help out at the foundry, he had better come there while Strat was still there. He is now vice president and manager there and is doing a job that we are proud of.

I made Strat work until he was 72, so that I could retire at 65. We played a lot of golf and did some traveling, including some trips to Florida, where we built a home in 1948 and went to live year-round in 1960. Strat would never have retired if he had stayed close to the foundry.

Sarah lived with us until she passed away in 1958 at the age of 103.

(Marguerite Stratton Nobles died in 1980, at the age of 84.)

Marie Fitch Houser and Arthur Houser

by Richard Houser, grandson of Amos and Nancy Fitch

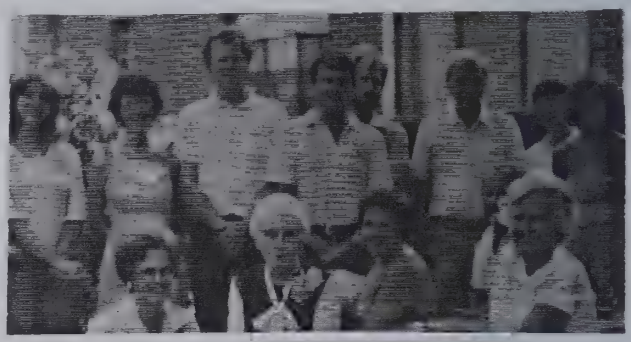
I can't tell you much about (my parents) Marie and Arthur's courtship because there was little or no discussion on those matters in our household -- perhaps we kids weren't cleared for that information.

Before they were married (on October 16, 1916) and for some years after, Arthur never owned a car, and I could never figure out how he traveled from Garrett to Fort Wayne. There was a flag stop at Station 32 near the old Five Points Schoolhouse. I can remember seeing them lighting a newspaper and placing it on the tracks to flag the interurban from Fort Wayne at night.

I do remember the first car Arthur bought -- a used Elgin touring car from Uncle Rolland (Fitch). On the first driving lession from Uncle Rol, he promptly drove it into a ditch north of Garrett.

Later, Arthur and Marie made a point of showing us kids (Richard, Margaret and Joan) the greatness and the scenic wonders of this great country of ours. We shall never forget trips around the Great Lakes, to Gettysburg, Washington, Monticello, Rockies, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and the Badlands.

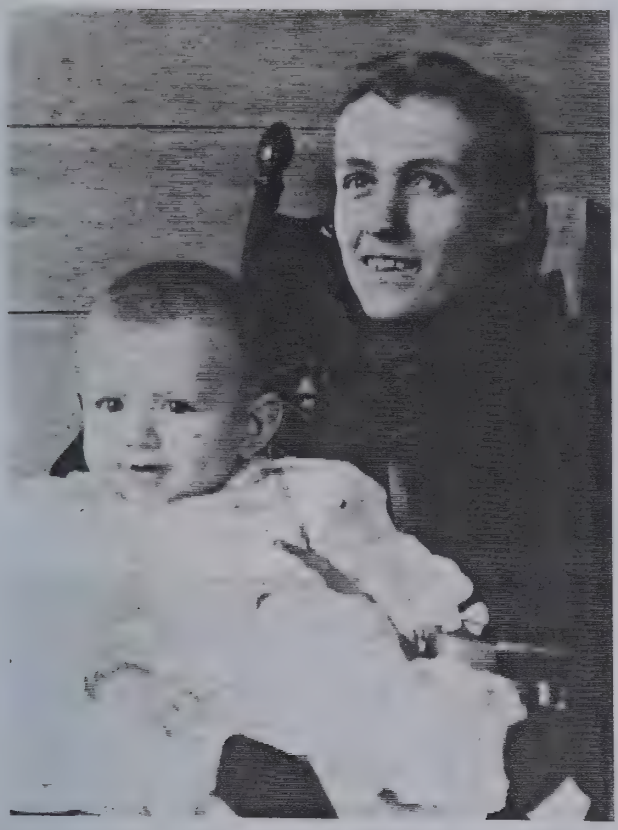
(From an article in *The Garrett (Indiana) Clipper*, April 26, 1984) After working as a clerk in the B&O storekeeper's office, at age 27 Arthur formed a partnership with Roy Reyher in 1907 to engage in the men's clothing business in a small wooden store at the southwest corner of Quincy and Randolph in Garrett. A year later Reyner quit the business, and in 1915 Arthur erected a two-story brick building at 125 Randolph Street, where his store occupied the south half of the first floor. At 36, with some financial security, Arthur married Marie Fitch (then 25), and they set up housekeeping in the apartment over the store.



Celebrating Marie Fitch Houser's 90th birthday: L-R (front) Joan Dove, Marie Fitch Houser, Elaine Kirbach, Joan Houser; (rear) Linda Kirbach, Kathy, Mark and Kent Houser, Larry Noll, William Rammel (Nancy Hunter Fitch's brother's grandson), Carol ? and Judy Dove. Descendants of Amos and Nancy Fitch. (6-29-81)



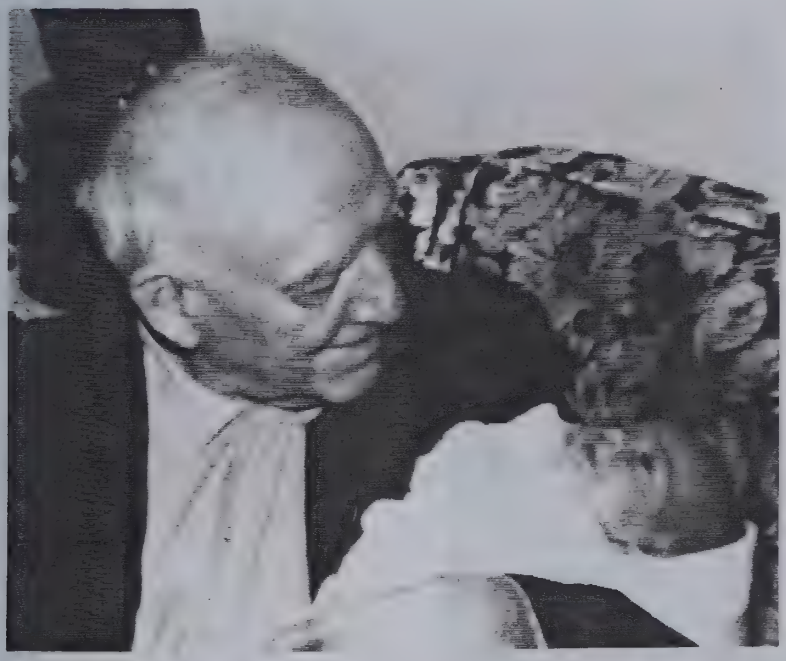
"Fitches and Melons at Uncle Ame's" L-R: Amos, Paul Roberts (a friend of Burgess'), David, Marguerette, Belle (David's wife), Nancy (Amos' wife), Marie, Gladys and Burgess Fitch (kneeling) at Amos Fitch's farm in Dekalb County. (c. 1905)



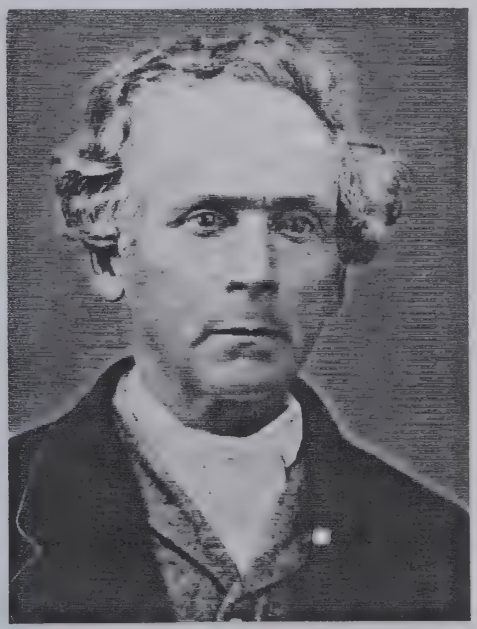
Lucinda Depotty Fitch, wife of William S. Fitch (Perry's oldest son who survived infancy), and her second child, Fred W. Fitch. Her first child, Victor W. Fitch is pictured below. (c. 1896-7) It would be great to get other Fitch descendant photos that span three or more generations. Can you help?)



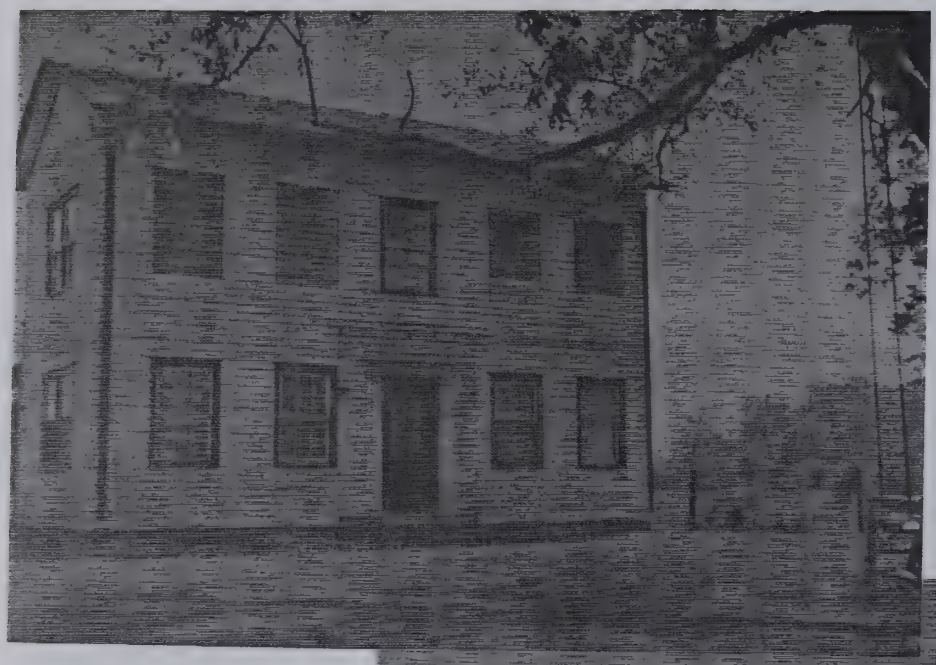
A formal photo of Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch, wife of Nathaniel Fitch. Probably taken by Shoaff Photographers of Fort Wayne, as it is somewhat similar to "Jennie's Portrait" of Sarah that was prepared by Shoaff in the 1870's. (See page 3 of the Fall 1993 Newsletter.)



80 years after the above photo, Victor W. Fitch holds his first great grand child, Erika Lawrence. Six generations had passed since that of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. (March 1977)



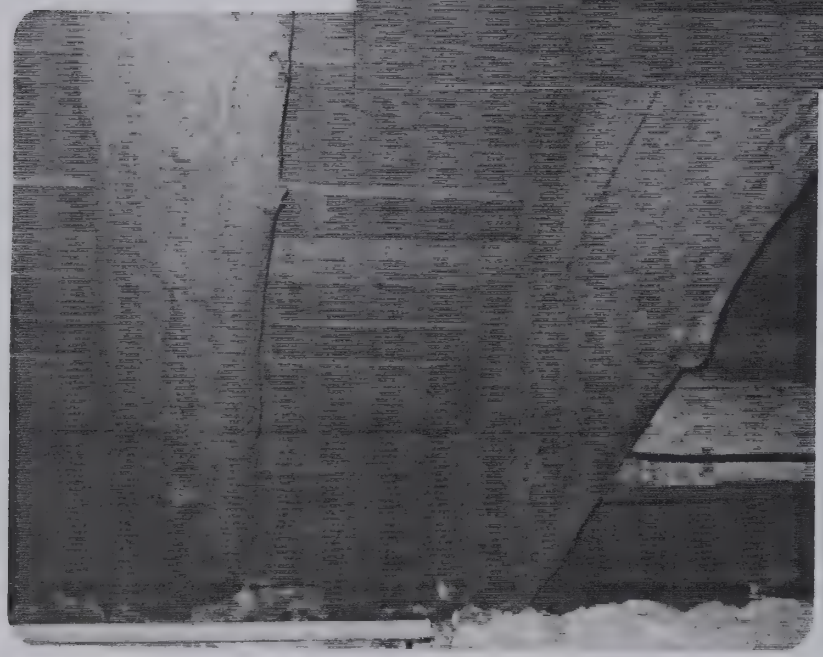
Nathaniel Fitch, the progenitor of our Fitch family line. This photo, from the Charles Fitch family, is slightly different from the others we have seen in that no retouching of his features or clothing has been done.



The Fitch Homestead, built in 1855 on Coldwater Road in Huntertown, Indiana. Note the clapboarded windows on the second floor and the missing front door framing. Any ideas as to what was going on? (Date unknown)



The Fitch Homestead, showing the end and attached ell on the rear. (Taken at the same time as the above photo)



The log beams that support the first floor of the Fitch Homestead. (Note that they are not sawed timbers but rough logs.)

Fitch Heirlooms



An inlaid wooden music box given to Sarah Fitch by her sons. (Date unknown)



A foot-operated sewing machine of a very early variety that belonged to Sarah Fitch. Said to be the oldest sewing machine in Perry County.



John A. Fitch, son of Warren and Betty Fitch and a great, great, great grandson of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, rests his foot upon a mill stone from the Fitch Mill, which had been relocated to the Fort Wayne Historical Society premises. All the photos on this page were taken by Betty Fitch in the mid-1970's.



The home of Mathias Fitch on Fitch Road in northern Allen County was built in 1878 and has since been torn down. (Photo taken in mid-1970's)



Mathias and Frances Fitch stand in the doorway of their house on Fitch Road. This doorway can be located on the above photo just to the left of the one-story, rear ell. (Date unknown)



While this was the home of Harvey and Etta Fitch for a time, it had previously been Nathaniel Fitch's blacksmith shop. It was located on the north side of the Homestead at the bottom of a small hill and is long gone. The area is now woodlands.

Family Photos &:

Family Heirloom Books

In the mid-1960's I visited my grandmother, Margie Beers Ozanne, at the home in which she had lived for 60 years. The property had been taken by eminent domain for a new post office, and she was preparing to move out. We spent an evening in the attic prowling through a lifetime collection of family materials.

While she could identify much of what we saw, I remember that she puzzled over some things, including a number of very old photos. "I know that she's "family," but I'm not sure who she is."

I was fortunate that my mother lived to be 83 and that she was able to identify most of our family heirlooms and photos and to tell some stories about them.

As a result, I felt an obligation to make sure that my son, who is 49 years younger than I am, will be as fortunate as I was. I am passing along what I've done to record my family heritage to all my Fitch kin, in the hopes that your descendants or relatives a hundred years from now will not puzzle over an old photo of "family" or an heirloom that was lovingly kept for generations.

First, I unearthed and researched all our old family photos up through the 1960's. After applying identification labels to the photos' backs, I placed them in photo albums with identical labels on the acetate sleeves. This way the photo does not have to be removed to read the label..

Second, I created an "Family Heirloom Book" from a large photo album. I took photos of all the family heirlooms, including meaningful things that my wife and I have acquired or made. Every other page is a stiff paper on which I have printed the origins, stories and meaning of the facing photos. I've included family recipes (e.g. our home-made wedding cake) with photos of the various dishes.

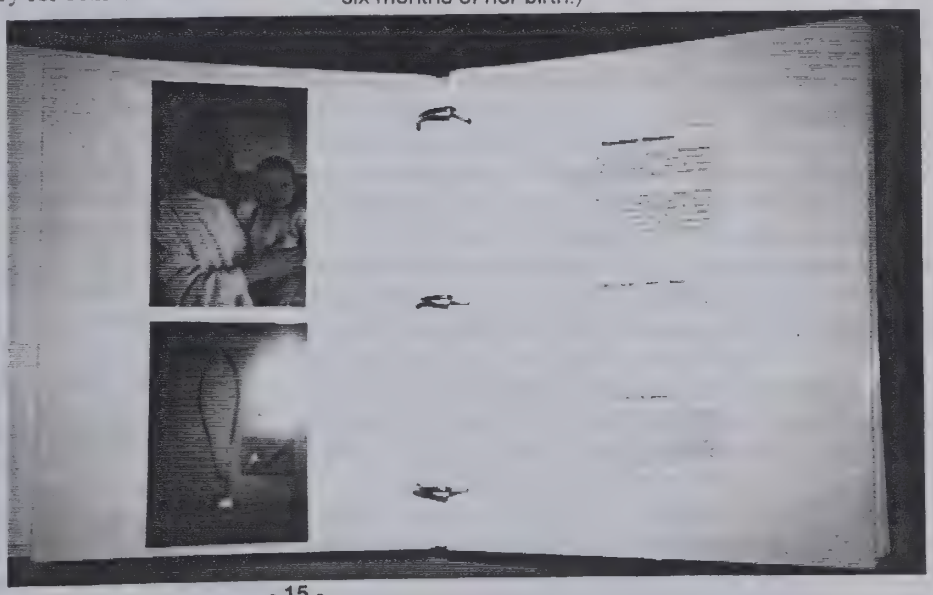
Unlike photos, many heirlooms do not lend themselves to being written on, so this is a way to identify tools, furniture, toys, china, silver and clothing. We have a blanket that was woven at the Fitch Homestead from Fitch wool. Much used, it would be easy for someone who does not know its provenance to discard it in the distant future.

It's also a way to display heirlooms that are buried deep in cedar chests or the attic, without having to dig them out when someone asks about them. Multiple books for multiple children provide means to share the family history and heirlooms, even when the actual item is one-of-a-kind.

Of course, it's important to keep it "up-to-date" as you acquire "new" family heirlooms.



The earliest known photo of Amos Fitch, Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's 6th child, who was born in 1849. Amos had yet to grow his distinctive beard, which is evident in an early stage in the photo on page 9 of the Winter '95 Newsletter, so he was probably around 20 years old in this photo. (Note: Amos was their 5th child to live to adulthood. Nancy, who was born in 1848, died within six months of her birth.)



A photo and a description page from the Cassell Family Heirloom book: Above is Bernadine, my wife, holding our son Alex, who is wearing a hand-made woolen sweater from Sr. M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch). Below is a gold locket and chain that belonged to Jennie Fitch. Inside the locket is a plaited lock of blond hair, which belonged to a Perry County beau who marched off to the Civil War. Also below is a gold sewing thimble engraved with "MJFB - 99", which belonged to Jennie, whose given name was Mary Jane Fitch and who was married to Levi Beers in 1873; thus "MJFB".

The Preacher's Note

(In October 1991 I came into possession of my great uncle Kenneth Fitch Beers' autobiography, which I subsequently published. Four years later, I found a separate but related letter among my late mother's papers. The 100-year old letter had been passed from Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers to their daughter (my grandmother) and then on to my mother. While the letter is interesting, it's context and importance to Levi and Jennie would have been lost without Kenneth's story. This illustrates the importance of writing down or recording family stories.)

From Kenneth Beers' *The Preacher's Boy*: page 52

In this chapter my father takes the center of the stage, his troubles being almost as numerous as those that fell to the lot of ancient Job, except that Job had boils. There was another difference. Job was a man of wealth, my father was a minister of the gospel, a hand to mouth existence at its best in those early days of Methodism in Western Pennsylvania.

Our family had made few staunch friends. There were some persons in each town (where he ministered) who recognized superior qualities of education and culture with which nature and hard work had endowed my parents, and their friendship was a cherished thing.

When my father saw that for his children's sake he must seek other fields, he borrowed $2,000 from a friend in Brookville. One thousand was all he needed for building purposes, but his friend preferred to keep the two thousand intact, so my father accepted the loan. In Harvey (where the family had moved), he loaned in turn the second thousand to a down state resident.

It was our custom to keep valuable papers in our home in a strong box. Banks nearby were a convenience we did not have. The note given for the second thousand was in a purse in the kitchen. Careless perhaps, but preachers in general had few papers of value in those days. Anyway, we thought everyone was honest.

This time our wash woman was the exception to the honest rule. She saw the box, opened it and took the purse and its contents to her home. Soon it was missed. All clues pointed toward this woman. Father called at her home, she saw him coming and hastily burned the papers in her stove. She denied knowing anything of the purse.

Later she confessed her crime. The confession was not enough to satisfy the maker of the note. He insisted on waiting to pay the $1000.00 until the note was legally outlawed. For ten years, according to Illinois law, my father had this note over his head and the interest to pay.

(The letter that had been so carefully preserved all these years was a letter from the thief to Jennie. The spelling and punctuation is that of the writer.)

Dear Mrs. Beers,

Hear in the silence of my room at midnight I seat myself to write a few lines you will be surprised I know, but I feel as though I could not leave without doing it as I am about to do for part's unknown. I am the one that took your money. I started for your house on that day to ask for aid as we were almost destitute and my daughter lay very sick and I had no means to get medicine, coal or food. I went to the door and knocked. No one came. I turned the knob and went in and there before my eyes on a desk lay a pocket-book. The first thought I had - it is for me. I just opened it to see if there was anything in it and then I fled, but after I got home, I saw what I had done. I found the notes. I did not dare to take them back and one day someone said Mr. Beers is coming this way, and I was so afraid I went and burned up all the papers but I am going to where I can earn money and I will try to earn enough to pay you all up if God spares my life. Pray for me so if there is any salvation for my poor soul, I may be saved and helped.

(Unsigned)

(As far as I can determine, they never heard from the woman again.)

More on the Fitches and the Military

by Kay Fitch

My husband, Stephen David Fitch, who passed away on December 5, 1989, and was David Fitch's grandson by Hurshel, was a naval officer during World War II.

After two years at Purdue University, where he was in ROTC, he was an apprentice seaman on a training cruise, aboard the U.S.S. Wyoming. Upon completion of the cruise, he was commissioned a midshipman and went to midshipman school at Abbott Hall in Chicago. He was in the first class of "90 day wonders," ensigns after just three months of concentrated study, graduated on December 12, 1940, and was assigned to the U.S.S. New Mexico. He served in the engineering departments on all his ships.

The New Mexico was a battleship whose purpose was to accompany convoys in the Atlantic. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, his ship was in port at Portland, Maine.

In January 1942 Steve was ordered to report to Balboa, Canal Zone, where he was assistant port director until February 1943, when he was assigned to the "new" Yorktown, an aircraft carrier which was being built at the Norfolk Naval Yard. He served on the Yorktown until July 1945, at which time he was transferred back to the Norfolk facility for the commissioning of the Midway.

In August, when the war in the Pacific ended, he applied for and received a discharge.

Steve's father, Hurshel Fitch, served in the Navy during World War I, as evidenced by his name and star on the Fitch's World War I "service flag."

The WW I Fitch Service Flag is among the our preserved heirlooms, but we're still looking for the U. S. flag that was sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War and displayed at Reunions.

Newspaper Obituary of Sarah E. Fitch

Auburn Courier - September 2, 1908

AT ADVANCED AGE

Death at Huntertown of Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch

The Mother of Dr. D. N. Fitch, of This City

Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch, the mother of Dr. D. N. Fitch, of this City, died Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock at her home in Perry township, Allen County, near Huntertown, aged 90 years, of the infirmities due to her advanced age.

Mrs. Fitch was a lady of many noble traits of character and was highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends. She was a Christian lady, a devoted wife and a loving mother.

The funeral will occur Friday forenoon at 9:30 from the residence, the services being at 10 o'clock at the Cemetery Church in Huntertown.

The following are the children: Nancy and John died in infancy; Perry the elder died eight years ago; Josiah M. Fitch of Huntertown; Mrs. J. F. Beers of Colorado; Charles and Allen Fitch, both of South St. Paul, Minnesota; Amos Fitch of DeKalb County, Indiana; Mrs. Francelia Fair of Alden, Kansas; Fipelia (sic) Gloyd of Fort Wayne; Harvey Fitch of Huntertown; Mrs. Sarah E. Stratton of Fort Wayne; Mrs. Ida S. Mason of Fort Wayne; Mrs. Emma Hartzell of New Haven and Dr. D. N. Fitch of Auburn.

The following sketch of her life has been furnished the Courier by relatives.

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, widow of Nathaniel Fitch, and pioneer of Allen County, Ind., was born in Miami County, Bethel township, Ohio, May 29, 1819, the daughter of George and Sarah Stattler Delong. She came to DeKalb county, Ind., to the home of her sister, Mrs. Abram Fair, where she met Mr. Fitch, to whom she was married June 4, 1840. They located in Perry township, Allen county, Ind., which place became her permanent home the remainder of her life.

She was left a widow by the death of her husband January 1, 1877. A large number of immediate relatives survive her. She was the mother of fifteen children, twelve of whom are living, forty-six grandchild and twenty-eight great grandchildren.

Mrs. Fitch was christened in infancy in the German Reformed church. She united with the Methodist Episcopal church of which she was a consistent member up to the time of her death.

She was of a religious, charitable nature and her life was full of good deeds, for she gave with an open hand to the poor and needy.

The call of the sick and suffering was answered by her presence as often as both physician and nurse. Her influence and help has been far reaching through her long life and it can be said of her "She did what she could" and when in her 90th year the summons came, she was ready to go.

(NOTE: Can anyone tell me if Mathias was actually "Josiah Mathias" or was this a typo?)



A birthday card for Sarah E. Fitch on her 88th birthday.

Newspaper Obituary of Sarah E. Fitch

New Haven newspaper? - Date Unknown

GRANDMA FITCH DIES

The venerable mother of Allan Hartzell passed away at Huntertown, Wednesday morning. At the last Fitch reunion held two months ago it was seen that Grandma Fitch could not long survive. Past the age of 90, she had reached the time when any minute might bring the summons. She had always been strong but age overcomes strength. While sitting in bed receiving attention from members of the family, the aged head bent forward, a sigh escaped the lips and the spirit was gone.

- Cemetery from Page 1 -

The cemetery, which had been used from 1835 to 1896, was all but forgotten, overgrown with scrub, trees and vines.

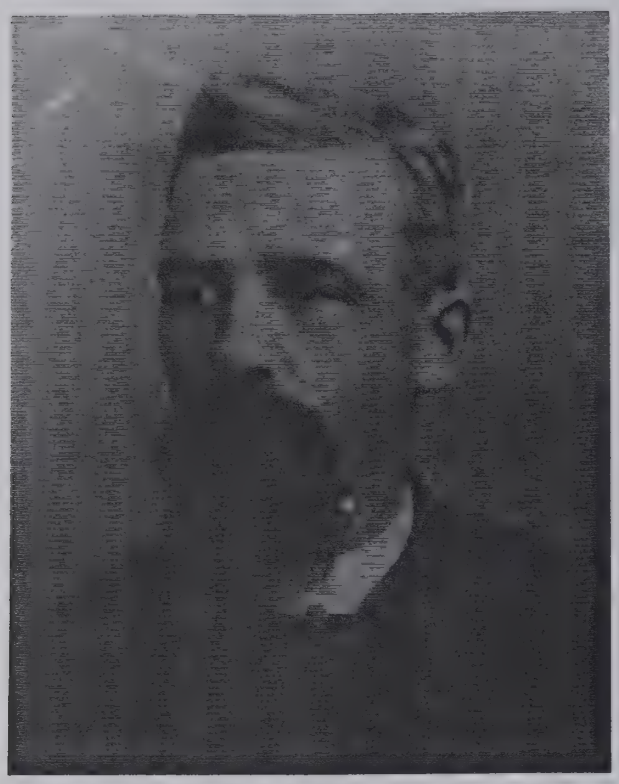
Recently, Dennis R. Gloyd (Fitelia Fitch Gloyd's great grandson), who lives on Dafforn Road, took an interest in the old cemetery. "Throughout time the small cemetery had its battle with nature, neglect and vandals," said Dennis.

The cemetery, now called the Wesley Chapel, Jonston,Watterson Cemetery, sits at a bend in the road where north-south Taylor road makes a sharp turn to the east-west Aetna road. A neon green-painted wooden stake marked the spot recently.

The sorry sight of scattered, broken and illegible tombstones caused Dennis to work toward a goal of installing a plaque at the site that listed the names of all those known to be buried in the cemetery. He copied as many bits and pieces of the broken stones as he could, then tried to piece the names together jigsaw-puzzle fashion with the aid of census records and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department.

Finally, Dennis gathered 38 names and partial names on a list, bought the materials and had a plaque engraved and installed on the site.

Thanks to John and Elizabeth Fitch Pearson, Charles Fitch's granddaughter, we have some additional early photos of Charles Fitch's family, some of which are reproduced on this and the following pages.



Charles Fitch, Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's 4th child. (c. 1887 and 1902)



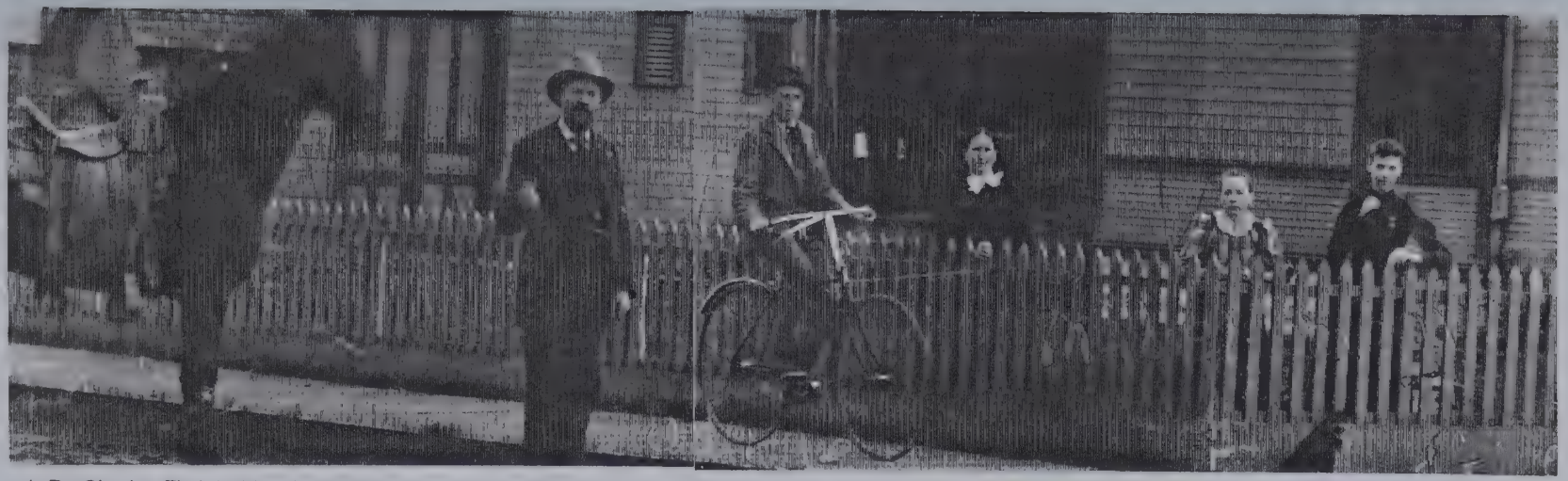
Lu Ann Clubb Fitch, Charles Fitch's wife. (date unknown)



Charles Oakley Fitch, son of Charles Fitch (c. 1902)



L-R: The children of Charles Oakley Fitch: Elizabeth, Marjorie and Lucille. (c. 1917)



L-R: Charles Fitch holding his horse while his son, Charles Oakley Fitch sits astride a bicycle that has been tethered to the fence with a rope (for the long exposure required by photography at that time). Charles wife, Lou Ann, stands behind the fence with her husband's sisters, Mabel and Rosie May Fitch. (c. 1900)

these are daughter's, not sisters



The Charles Fitch home on the northwest corner of 2nd Avenue & 4th Street in South St. Paul MN. (c. 1900) The other photos on this page were taken from this original of 6" by 9", using a powerful close-up lens. The fine quality of the originals of this era allows me to enlarge our copies until faces can be seen distinctly.



L-R: Giles and Harry Fitch, Charles Fitch's oldest and youngest sons, respectively, with Mopsy, the horse. Using our new negatives, larger prints can be made, so that our kin's faces can be even clearer. If you send me old family photos, I can enlarge portions so that you can enjoy seeing your ancestors close-up.

Perry Township Mills

The Fitch mills were described in the Fall 1993 Newsletter (page 28). Recently Bob and Evlyn Gloyd and Mary Louise Fitch sent me a copies of a poem about the Gloyd's mills, which were also known as the Vandolah's and Cedar Creek Mills. The Fitches, Gloyds and Vandolahs were all related through marriage: Perry Fitch married Sarah Gloyd, Mathias Fitch married Frances Vandolah and Fitelia Fitch married Jerome Gloyd.

The Gloyd sawmill was built by James Vandolah between 1835 and 1839, when it commenced operation. Successive family-related owners were George Gloyd, Jerome Gloyd (son of George and husband of Fitelia Fitch) and Edwin (brother of Jerome). The sawmill, which was equipped with an upright saw, was abandoned during the ownership of Jerome, but a grist mill with three four and a half foot French buhrstones continued in operation.

One buhrstone was used for processing flour, another for grinding cornmeal and the third was used for grinding chop feed for animals. The mill was powered by one large over-shot wheel and an immense turbine wheel which now lies buried in the silt and sand on the mill site near Big Cedar Creek (see map on page 7).

The Fitch saw mill was operated by Mathias Fitch until 1908, and the building was abandoned. Subsequently, part of the mill building fell down (see photo of Fitch sawmill below), and the remainder was dismantled.

Memories of Gloyd's Mill

by Estella Rowe, 1938

On a winding road at the foot of a hill
Are the tumbled down walls of Gloyd's old mill.

It's a scene of the past, our grandfathers made,
And a place where their children oft times played.

The miller was kind, so people have said,
And he ground their flour to make their bread.

The hills were steep and hard to climb,
But the trip was made many a time.

Across the creek still stands the bridge,
And the miller's home upon the ridge.

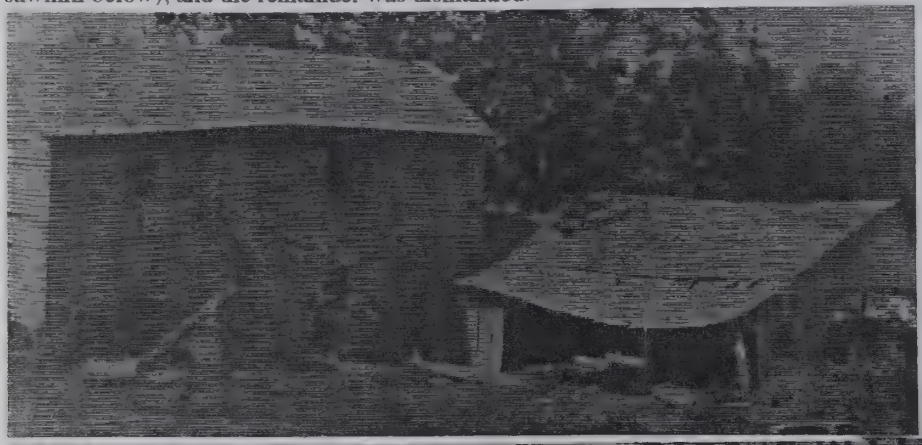
Those days are gone, but our memories still
Take us back again to the grand old mill.

Horsedrawn wagons plowed through the mud,
Sometimes a wheel mired down to its hub.

'Twas common in winter to travel by sled
To get the flour to bake the bread.

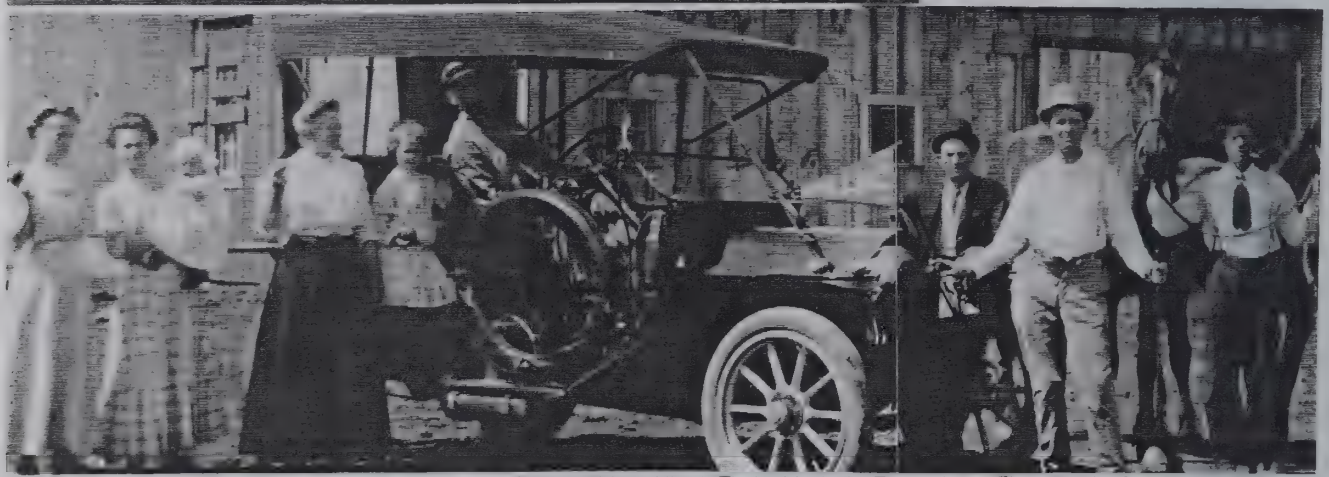
Our late improvements and modern skill
Have banished the ways of the old water mill.

A Dream of the future that we might see- -
What a beautiful park these hills could be.



If you have family stories, photos, memorabilia, etc. and would like to share them with your near and distant Fitch cousins, write or call me. Also, please keep me informed of new addresses, births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Thanks.

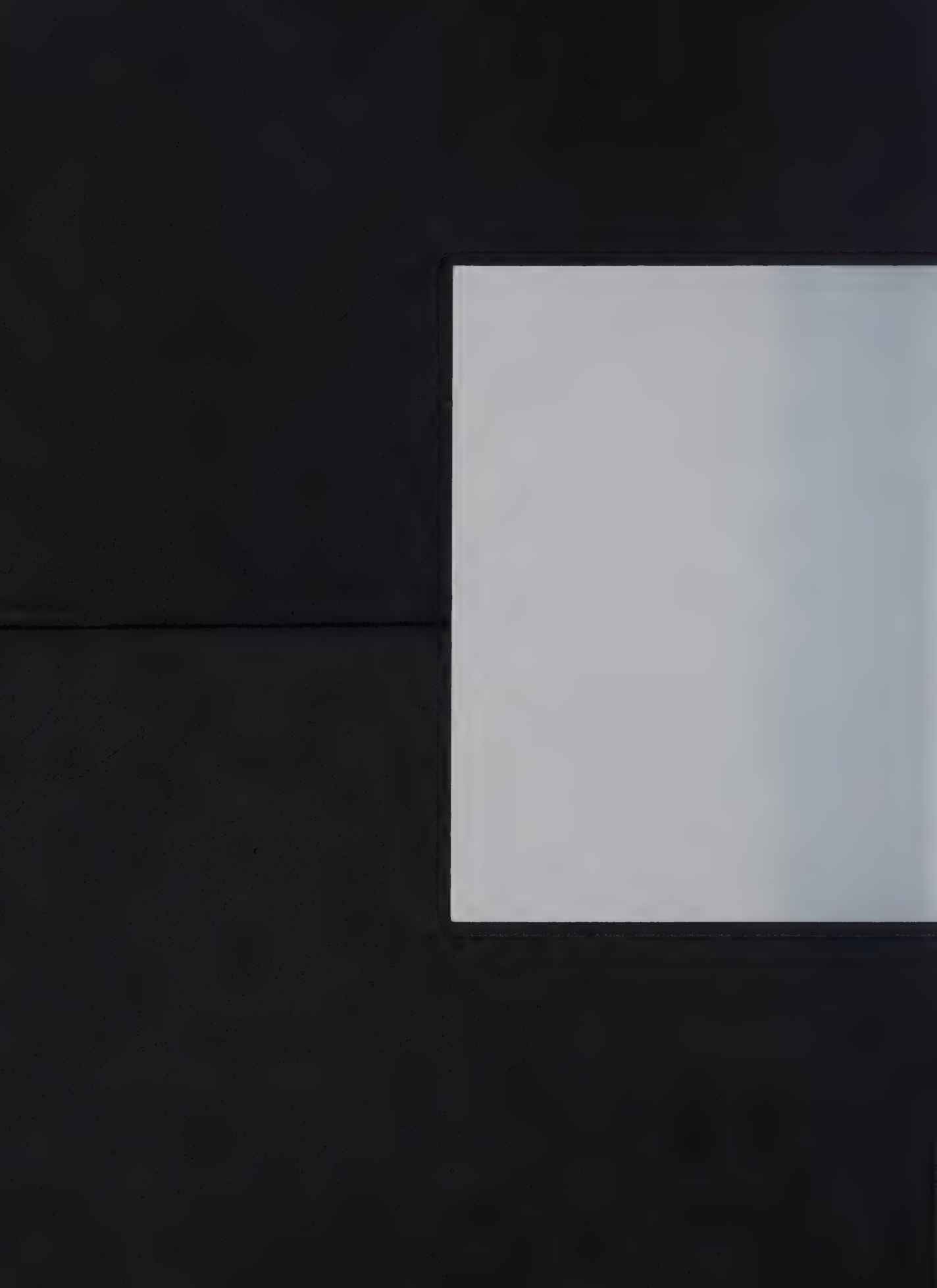
Bill Cassell
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617-862-6172



L-R Genevieve Fitch, Stella Varien with baby, Emma (Mrs. Allen) Fitch, Marjorie Fitch, Allen Fitch in his Cadillac, John Varien, Charles Oakley Fitch with a rifle & Richard Varien at Elizabeth Varien's farm in Hastings MN. (c. 1912)



Mathias and Sarah DeLong Fitch
with portrait of Nathaniel Fitch at the 1884 Fitch Reunion



May 7, 1997

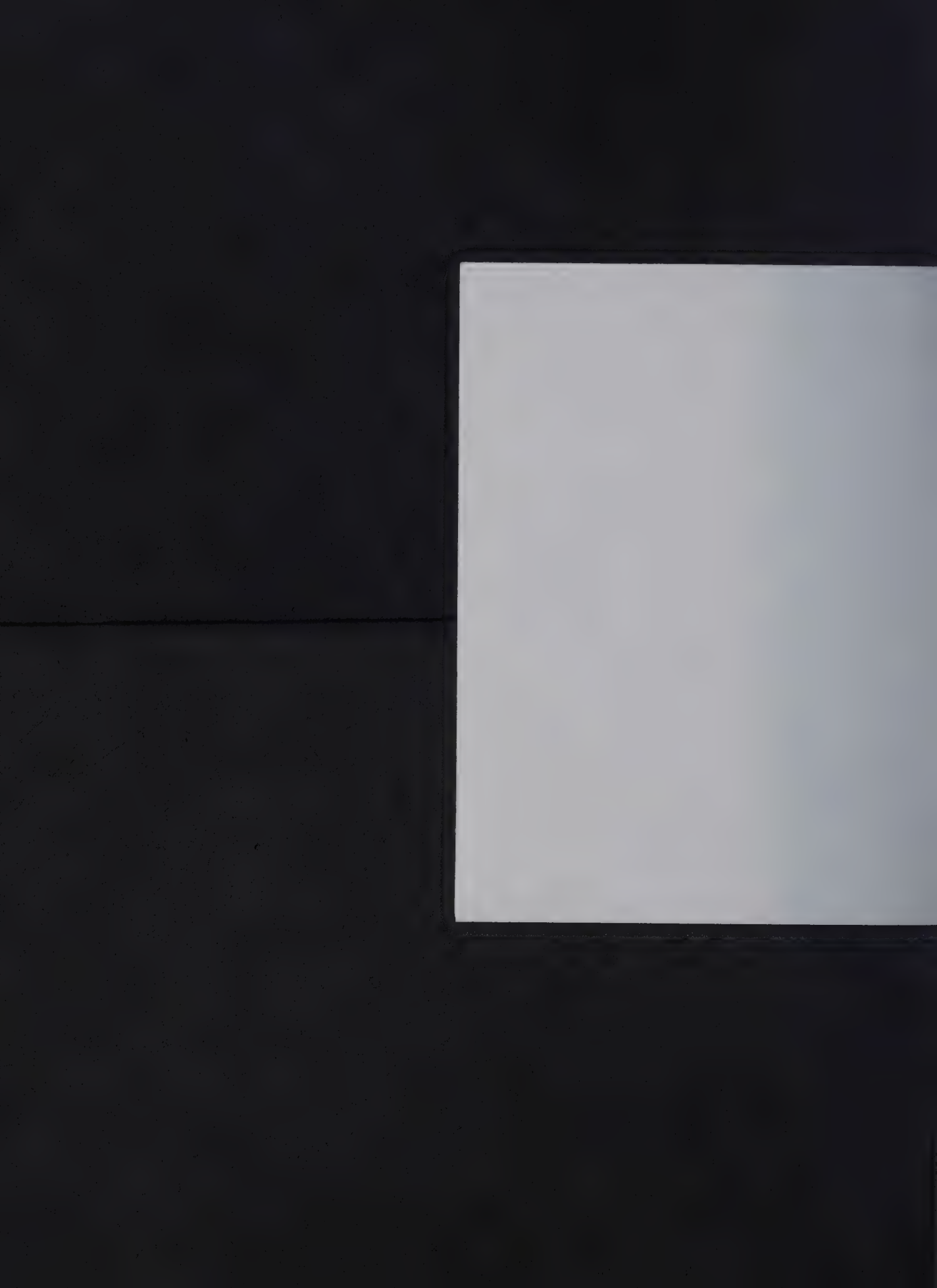
Dear Betty,

Many thanks for the wonderful letter. I'm setting it aside for our next newsletter.

Boy, did I make some errors in identifying our kin. I'll print some corrections next time. Rosie May and Mabel were Charles' daughters. Audrey and Nina were Harvey's daughters. And Giles and Harry were Charles' youngest and oldest sons (not oldest and youngest).

Our vital records need updating. I'll be sending out requests for data soon.

Sincerely,
Bill





1992

Happy HOLIDAYS

Hope all is well with you!

Love



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418 N. Hall
Mesa, Arizona 85203

Mrs. Sue Moyer
11981 Blackhawk Circle
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

BEERS FAMILY

Mr.&Mrs. Patrick S. Spangler
5253 Meadowbrook Court
Pleasanton, Calif. 94566

Mr.&Mrs. Stephen Phillips
144 W. 21st St.
Chico, Calif. 95926

MATTHIAS FITCH FAMILY

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Barnes
P.O. Box 113
Hamersville, Ohio 45130

Alan Lyons
2nd Lieutenant
P.O. Box 8037
Reese Air Force Base
Texas 79489

Mr.&Mrs. Perry L. Lyons
4521 Sheridan Road
Muskegon, Michigan 49444

Mr.&Mrs. Lloyd Knowles
439 Spector, Apt. 921
Lansing, Michigan 48917

Mr.&Mrs. Richard R. Gulick, Jr.
5400 Oakham Dr., Apt. 101
Dayton, Ohio 45426

FAIR FAMILY

Barbara Ann Hulsizer
Alden, Kansas 67512

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Spring 1998



Everything's up-to-date in Allen County, Indiana, as Grace Fitch (left), the daughter of John and Belle Fitch and granddaughter of Mathias Fitch, and a friend pose on an aeroplane around 1917. The design of the aeroplane (the pilot's seat, the steering gear, the rear propeller, the wooden construction) is typical of the sort used in rural flight demonstrations in this period. Interestingly, Grace's son, John A. Caple, was a pilot who died in a plane crash in 1992. (c. 1917)

Youngest Descendant of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch



Bryce Alfred Johnston, the son of Jim and Gail and a descendant of Jennie Fitch Beers, was born on April 27, 1998, almost 192 years after Nathaniel Fitch was born. Holding him is his 4-year old sister Katelyn Johnston.

See You There!!

Next Fitch Reunion - Summer 1999

The first documented Fitch Family Reunion took place in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead. The last one was in 1994 at Northside Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The next one is being planned for the summer of 1999, probably for a weekend in July or August, somewhere in the vicinity of Fort Wayne.

The planning will start in earnest in late 1998 and,

See Reunion - page 2

In This Issue:

1999 Fitch Family Reunion in Fort Wayne
Fitches Identified in '27 and '33 Reunion Photos
Books Written About the Fitch Family
From Whom Are We Descended? James or Thomas?
"Vacations and Camp Meetings" by Kenneth Fitch
Is There a Fitch Family Newsletter in Our Future?
Fitch Recollections and Bits and Pieces
And Many More Fitch Family Photos



Nathaniel and Sarah's second son, Mathias Fitch, with his wife, Frances Vandolah Fitch. (c. 1920)

- Reunion from Page 1 -

even though the family has a century-plus of experience in holding reunions, we will need some significant help from descendants living in the Fort Wayne area. Some of the tasks include locating and reserving a Reunion site and restaurants for family gatherings, with all the required tables, chairs, table clothes, etc.

Carolyn Davis, now deceased, and Betty and Warren Fitch handled the local details in 1994. Betty and Warren can provide information of what needs to be done locally.

We need to know what's the best date(s) for the Reunion. Historically, they were held on a weekend close to July 4th, although the 1994 Reunion was on Saturday, August 20.

We are seriously considering a longer Reunion, possibly starting on Friday afternoon and continuing through Sunday morning. David Fitch's family, most of whom travelled some distance to attend, did just that in 1994. Others felt that there just wasn't enough time to get acquainted with their kin and their ancestral landmarks during a one day Reunion.

Our tentative plans are to have a casual reception on Friday evening for those who can make it, with the actual Reunion from 11:30AM to 4:00pm on Saturday. Maybe a restaurant supper on Saturday evening, with a casual brunch gathering on Sunday morning.

Your thoughts and suggestions on our upcoming Reunion would be greatly appreciated.

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance - 1/2/97	$ 88.26
Contributions from Fitch Descendants	$880.00
In Memory of Lucille Ozanne Cassell	$1,500.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS	$2,468.26
Expenses	
Composition	$ 43.77
Printing	$580.13
Envelopes and Labels	$ 47.77
Postage	$118.72
3rd Class Mailing Permit Renewal	$ 85.00
Remailing Newsletters	$109.46
Winter '97 Newsletter Sub-total	$984.85
Photography Supplies & Printing	$144.75
Vital Records Update	$ 84.40
Miscellaneous Postage	$ 72.64
Other Expenses Sub-total	$301.79
TOTAL EXPENSES	$1,286.64
Ending Balance - 2/18/98	$1,181.62
Estimated Cost of This Newsletter	$1,050.00
Estimated Cost of Other Expenses	$200.00
PROJECTED BALANCE - 6/1/98	($ 68.38)



Through a contribution to the Fitch Fund in fond memory of their mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell (seated left), who enjoyed attending Fitch Family Reunions, Sandra Peterson, Bill Cassell and Susan Spangler (seated right) have nearly erased the Newsletter's projected deficit.

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Alyce Adams
Mary Baird
Richard Beers
Trumin P. Brown
Bill Cassell
Sharon & David Davis
Alice & Jerry Deck
Joan Dove
Sr. M. Alma Louise
Betty & Warren Fitch
Linwood R. Fitch
Sue Ann Fitch
Victor K. Fitch
William D. Fitch
William S. Fitch II
Ann & Joe Geller
Enid Honeick
Richard Houser
Gail & Jim Johnston
Bill Le Vay
Francia Mann
Jean & Dan McCrea
Florella Moudy
Norman E. Moudy
Jon Oakley Pearson
John & Elizabeth Pearson
Sandra Peterson
Christy Scofield
Carl E. Shafer
Susan Spangler
James & Teresa Wortman

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

Write, call, or email with your thoughts on the 1999 Reunion. Send your family photos and stories. I'll dupe the photos and return the originals.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02173
Voice: 781-862-6172
FAX: 781-862-5319
email: cassellcw@aol.com

A Fitch Editorial

This will be the fifth Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter which I have edited and published since 1993. There will be at least two more issues: One in the spring of 1999 (probably a small one that promotes the 1999 Reunion), and one after the Reunion, which will share the event with those who could not attend.

At this time I am uncertain whether there will be any Newsletters after 1999. In the newsletters published to-date, I have shared all of the stories and most of the photos of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, our common ancestors, as well as many of the photos and stories of their children. *Jennie's Family*, a 96-page book of family stories was published in 1992, distributed to all of my great grandmother's descendants and made available to any other interested kin.

With each succeeding Newsletter, I receive fewer and fewer family stories and photos from Fitch descendants, and those items usually relate to kin who are farther and farther away from our common ancestors.

Very few cousins keep me up-to-date on their families' vital records of births, deaths, marriages, etc. Our address records get woefully out-of-date each year, and I end up mailing Newsletters to old addresses, paying for address corrections from the Post Office, and remailing additional copies.

After each Newsletter I receive notes of thanks and financial support from 25 to 30 cousins, which are deeply appreciated. However, the cost of the printing and mailing the Newsletter always exceeds the contributions received. In the final analysis, the financial viability of the Newsletter has always depended on my immediate family's contributions, as detailed in the Treasurer's Reports.

Finally, the physical creation of the Newsletter is no small task. It takes many hours to type and paginate the stories, to size and duplicate the photos, and to package and organize the Newsletters for mailing.

I cannot help but wonder whether we are reaching the natural end of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family Newsletter. Is it time for those of us who are interested in our families' pasts to focus our efforts closer to home? I know that I am aware of a large pile of audio cassettes upon which my mother recorded her memories, and I keep thinking that I should be transcribing them for my son and my immediate cousins.

Ideally, someone in each family (e.g. Perry's, Mathias', etc.) would step forward, and a series of Fitch Newsletters would be developed. As the keeper of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family records, I would be only too happy to assist these individuals, providing copies of photos, documents, etc.

My thoughts about this matter should not be interpretted as a resignation. I remain willing and able to continue publishing the Newsletter. Hopefully, this question can be discussed and resolved at the 1999 Reunion. In the meantime, your thoughts on the matter would be appreciated, as would contributions to its financial well-being.

Bill Cassell
Newsletter Editor



L-R: Margarita, Alice Nathalia (as in "Nathaniel"), and Bertha Beers, daughters of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers in a studio photo. (Can anyone figure out what the "bowling ball" figure is in the backdrop, just above Bertha's head?) c. 1888

Fitch Bits & Pieces

From James Wortman: "My wife, Teresa, is the granddaughter of Otis and Esther Fitch (Mathias' descendants). We found it curious that we had named our daughter 'Sara Elizabeth' unwittingly." Sarah Elizabeth has been a common combination of first names in our family since Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch, Nathaniel's wife.

Corrections for Winter 1997 Newsletter

Page 3 - In the Quick Reference Guide to Family Names
Descendants of Sarah - Add Baird & Southwick
Descendants of David - Add Farren
Schofield should be Scofield

Page 3 - Photo of "Visiting Cousins"
Audrey and Nina Fitch are daughters of Harvey Fitch, not Mathias.

Page 19 - Top photo of Charles Fitch's family
Mabel and Rosie May Fitch are the daughters of Charles Fitch, not his sisters.



Thanks to Elaine Kirbach, Betty Fitch and Dick Houser, we have determined that this Fitch Family Reunion photo was taken on July 4, 1927, at Amos Fitch's home, and we have identified 27 of our kin. See the key on page 5.



Again, with the help of Elaine, Betty and Dick, we know that this Fitch Family Reunion photo was taken on July 4, 1933, at Harvey Fitch's home. See the key on page 5.



1 - Forrest Fitch
2 - Bert C. Fitch
3 - Arvilla Gloyd
4 - Viola Fitch
5 - Effie Fitch
6 - Amos Fitch
7 - Belle Fitch
8 - Mabel D. Anderson
9 - Fitelia Gloyd
10 - Gladys Fitch
11 - Stella Gloyd
12 - Marie Houser
13 - Margaret Fitch
14 - Rolland Fitch
15 - Otis Fitch
16 - Hurshel Fitch
17 - Mabel Fitch
18 - Nina Emrick
19 - Stephen Fitch
20 - Richard Fitch
21 - Ida Mason
22 - James Fitch
23 - Elaine Houser
24 - Joan Houser
25 - Harvey Fitch
26 - Kenneth Harvey
27 - Etta Fitch

Books About Fitches

Fitch Family History - Nathaniel & Sarah
by Carolyn Kell Davis, 1972
Lineage and photos of ancestors and descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

History of the Fitch Family 1400 - 1930
by Roscoe Conkling Fitch, 1930
Two volume set, with stories, lineage and photos of the extended Fitch family.

Jennie's Family 1806 - 1992 ***
by Bill Cassell (editor), 1992
Kenneth Fitch's story of Jennie Fitch Beers' family, Nathaniel and Sarah stories, Jennie's family tree, stories by and about Margie Beers Ozanne, and many photos.

Descendants of the Rev. James Fitch ***

A Fitch Family History: English Ancestors of the Fitches of Colonial Connecticut ***

Puritan in the Wilderness: Biography of Rev. James Fitch, 1622 - 1702 ***
by John T. Fitch, Kalmia Co. Inc., Dept 3
71 Dudley St., Cambridge MA 02140

*** Still available. Other are out-of-print.



(Photo at left)

1 - Helen Hawver
2 - Gladys Fitch
3 - Rolland Fitch
4 - Mabel Anderson
5 - Marie Houser
6 - Pearl Gladbach
7 - Ida Mason
8 - Esther Fitch
9 - Fred Gladbach
10 - James Fitch
11- Stephen Fitch
12 - Joan Gladbach
13 - Richard Houser
14 - Joan Houser
15 - Elaine Houser
16 - Phyllis McComb
17 - Robert Gloyd
18 - Sara Fair
19 - Elsie Fitch
20 - Maxine Fitch
21 - Enid Davis
22 - Billy Hunt
23 - Clarence Davis
24 - Arthur Houser
25 - Warren Fitch ?



Fitch Castle, from an illustration in Tennyson's "A Dream of Fair Women," published by James R. Osgood & Co., of Boston 1880.

"Fitch Castle in the North" was the stronghold of the "House of Fitch" during the "Age of Chivalry," according to Roscoe Conkling Fitch, author of *History of the Fitch Family 1400 - 1930.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the English poet laureate, was proud of the record of his Fitch ancestors, who held sway at Fitch Castle for many centuries.

Kenneth Fitch Smith, a descendant of Perry Fitch, prompted us to look up the Fitch Castle, when he wrote that he was planning a trip to England and was curious about its location.

According to Roscoe Conkling Fitch, "John Fitch of 'Fitch Castle in the North' in Widdington, County Essex, who was living in the castle in 1294, was a direct ancestor of the four Fitch brothers who settled in Connecticut." Our family is descended from one of those four brothers, whose progeny abounded in New England in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Widdington appears to be a small village located about 35 miles north of London, just west of highway M-11. Hopefully, Kenneth will update us on the castle's existence upon his return.

If you have been to Widdington or know any more about Fitch Castle, please write to the Newsletter Editor.

A Genealogical Puzzle...

From Whom Are We Descended?

There is some confusion over our Fitch roots. While our family historian, Carolyn Davis, wrote that our Nathaniel Fitch was descended from Major James Fitch's grandson, John, in *The Fitch Family History,* it appears that this is not the case. It is indeed possible that we are not descended from Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, as our ancestors believed.

This connection has been questioned for some time. Helen Bowlby, the daughter of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, commissioned a researcher to investigate whether our Fitch line was descended from the Rev. James Fitch many years ago. More recently, Betty Fitch and Francia Mann have been exploring this link.

Since we have a fragile, handwritten document in our archives that deserves preservation and that partially explains Carolyn's connections, we'll begin with what our "family story" is.

"Fitch Family"

"The Fitch Family is one of the most ancient and honorable in America. The line is traced back to Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702), and his son, Major James Fitch (1649-1727); both of whom were conspicuous figures in the early Colonial History of Connecticut. The former was Chaplain of the Conn. forces in the great swamp fight in King Phillip's War, and the latter was a most noted Indian fighter, and also assistant Gov. of Conn. Colony for twenty-six years.

"Rev. Jas. Fitch married Priscilla, daughter of Major John Mason of Pequod War fame; while the wife of Major James Fitch was Alice, daughter of Major William Bradford, and grand-daughter of Gov. Wm. Bradford, who came over in the Mayflower and was the second Gov. of Plymouth Colony, an office which he held for sixteen years.

"Major Jas. Fitch's oldest son was John Fitch, whose first son bore his name. John Fitch (II) also named his oldest son John (III). John Fitch (III) came from Conn. with his family about 1779, immediately after the Wyoming Massacre in 1778, and settled on what is known as Kingston Flats, across the Susquehanna River from what is now the City of Wilkes Barre and what is now the Borough of Kingston.

"His oldest son was Nathaniel Fitch who was born Feb'y 12, 1781 and died in Falls Township Sept. 14, 1839, aged 57 yrs. 7 mo. 2 da, and was buried in Fitch's Cemetery in Falls Township.

"On Aug. 29, 1801, in Falls Township he married Sarah Keeler, who was born at Ridgefield Conn on June 26, 1785 and died in Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pa. Feb'y 6, 1856, aged 70 yrs. 7 mo. 9 da and is buried by the side of her husband in Fitch's Cemetery. She was a member of the Baptist Church of Mill City Pa.

"Sarah Keeler Fitch was the daughter of Paul Keeler Jr. born April 9, 1756 and Sara Burt Cornwall, who were married in Ridgefield Conn - Feb 7, 1775. Paul

Keeler was a trumpeter in the Revolution Army in Sheldon's Light Horse from the State of Conn. His father, Paul Keeler Sr. was born in 1720 and was the son of Jos. Keeler, born in 1683, grandson of Samuel Keeler born 1656 and great grandson of Ralph Keeler, who was born in England in 1613, came to Hartford Conn. in 1640. His will is on file at Fairfield Conn. dated August 20, 1672."

While we don't know the origin of this document, it approximates how Carolyn saw our lineage from Rev. James Fitch down to Nathaniel and Sarah Keeler Fitch, the parents of our Nathaniel. Unfortunately, it leaves out either John Fitch II or III, both of whom are well documented. Carolyn's list, on the other hand, includes all the "Johns."

Rev. James Fitch, born 1622
Major James Fitch, born 1649
Captain John Fitch (I), born 1667-8
John Fitch (II)**, born 1704-5
John Fitch, Jr. (III), born 1732
John Fitch (IV), born 1756
Nathaniel Fitch (the father), born 1781
Nathaniel Fitch, Jr. (our Nathaniel), born 1801

(The ** indicates a John Fitch who married his first cousin's daughter, Alice Fitch, in 1731. Their son John, Jr..seems to have swum safely through that intimate gene pool.)

The problem with this lineage occurs with John Fitch (IV), the one who supposedly moved to Pennsylvania in 1779.

According to John T. Fitch's book, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, Vol. 1*, John Fitch (IV) was a tavern keeper in Windham, CT who died in Windham in 1807. He had four children, none of them named Nathaniel. One of them, James, was born in 1781, the year that Nathaniel was born. Also, Carolyn writes that our Nathaniel's grandfather died in 1801, not 1807. It is unlikely that John (IV) was our Nathaniel's grandfather.

Francie Mann, a descendant of David Fitch, corresponded with John T. Fitch, and he writes that "according to the Rogers Collection at the Connecticut State Library, the John that had children Gideon and Nathaniel was from Thomas Fitch, not James. He married Elizabeth Lockwood on November 6, 1766. (His son,) Nathaniel was born in Fairfield County (CT) on February 12, 1782. I don't know the birthday of (his brother) Gideon. John lived in Luzerne (now Wyoming) County, Pennsylvania, but I don't know where he died."

It is interesting to note that the birthdays of Nathaniel Fitch (the father) given by John T. Fitch and Carolyn Davis are February 12, 1782, and February 12, 1781, respectively. These two are almost certainly the same man; and, since John T. Fitch has documentation that ties a Nathaniel and a Gideon Fitch to a John Fitch and to the right area in Pennsylvania, it is very likely that we are descended from Thomas Fitch and not his brother James.

Now being descended from Thomas Fitch is nothing to be ashamed of. Born in 1612, Thomas was one of the founders of Norwalk, Connecticut, Captain of Connecticut troops, Recorder of Laws, the King's Commissioner from 1669 to 1694, Deputy to the General Court for 11 years, and Deputy Governor of Connecticut. He was not, however, Governor of Connecticut in 1754-1766, as Carolyn wrote. She confused the first Thomas with his great grandson, who was indeed the governor.

Thomas Fitch had two sons, Captain Thomas Fitch and John Fitch, both of whom had male children in the 1630's. As was common practice, John named his first son, born in 1677, John, and his second son, born in 1682, Nathaniel. With those two names in Thomas' line and the tradition of naming sons after close relations, this lends credence to the probability of our Nathaniel (and us) being descended from Thomas Fitch of Bocking, Essex, England.

Additional support for this connection comes from the unnamed researcher who prepared 31 typed pages of material in search of the "parentage of Nathaniel Fitch, born Feb. 12, 1781." The family historian has a carbon copy of the report and would be glad to send copies to anyone who is interested.

According to his findings, our lineage might be:

Thomas Fitch, born 1612
John Fitch (I), born 1633
Nathaniel Fitch, born 1682
John Fitch (II), born 1707
John Fitch (III), born 1742/43
Nathaniel Fitch (the father), born 1781
Nathaniel Fitch, Jr. (our Nathaniel), born 1801

The researcher could not locate the names of all of the children that this John Fitch (III) had. "It is possible that John Fitch (III), who married Elizabeth Lockwood, married for his second wife a Molly or Mary. We know that John and Elizabeth Fitch had Ruth born 1768 and Esek born 1769 and probably others, and we know John Fitch of Pennsylvania had a son living at home. A search of Pennsylvania land records revealed John Fitch of Luzerne County, Pa. had a wife Mary, and that there was only one John Fitch in Luzerne County (in 1803), so he must have been the father of Nathaniel.

WRONG They were of John son of Theophilus

"Proof that John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood is the John Fitch appearing in Pennsylvania has not been found, but circumstantial evidence indicates that he was."

Carolyn notes that John Fitch (the father) married a "second wife named Mary...," so from different sources we may be coming to a common colonial ancestor from whom are we descended: Thomas Fitch.

Spelling Our Family Name

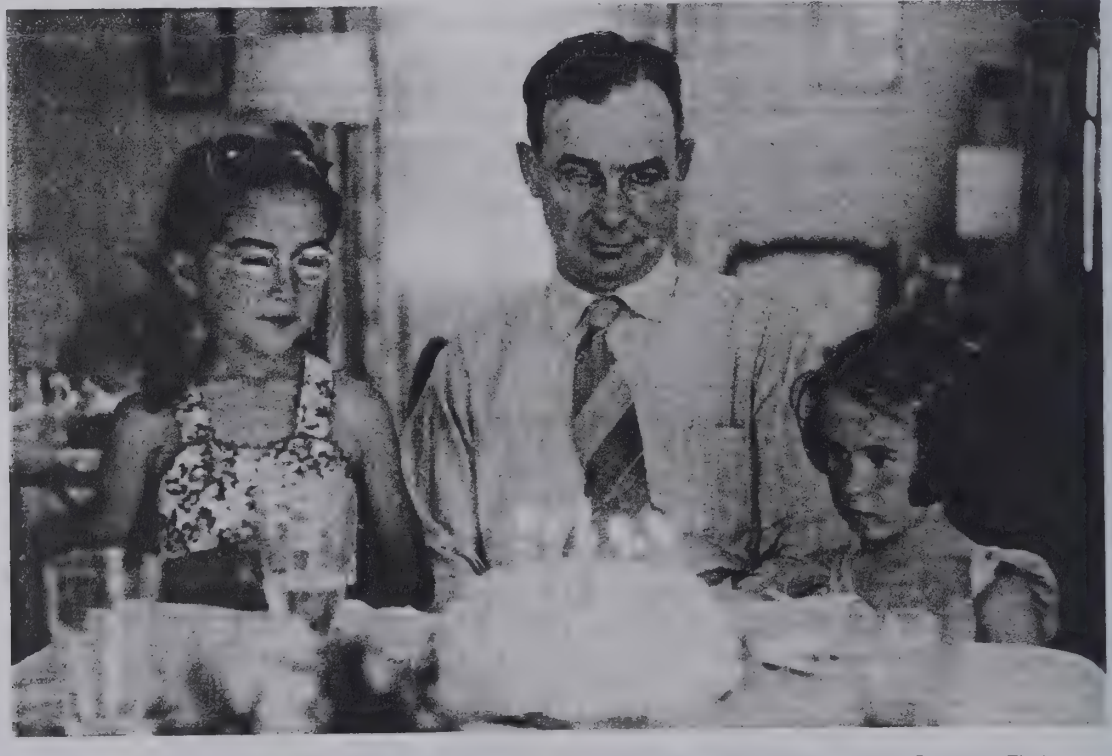
According to Dr. Asa Fitch in 1877, before capital letters came into vogue, two small letters meant the same as a capital letter, so the Fitch name "was anciently written *Ffytche*, *ffytche*, *ffytch*, *Fytch* and *ffitch*, and some branches of the family in England still retain one or another of these forms...(the German) *Fichte*, *Ficht* and *Fecht*, we surmise, are descended from this same original (Saxon) stock still remaining in that country."



James Burgess Fitch, eldest son of David Fitch, working as a telephone lineman. (1916)



Otis Fitch, ~~grand~~son of John and Belle Fitch, holding his prized rabbits. (c. 1912)



Charlotte (L) and Alice (R) Fitch celebrate a birthday with their grandfather, James Burgess Fitch, son of David Fitch (c. 1946)

See Recollections - Pg 9

Recollections

by William D. Fitch

My father, James Burgess Fitch, and my mother, Alice Rakestraw Fitch, both attended school in Auburn, IN. My grandfather, David Nathaniel Fitch, was a veterinarian. When we were visiting Indiana in the summer I learned to drive a car with him on his runs out to the country. He had a large barn for his office in Auburn, which had been rebuilt after Dad's brother, Hurshel, burned it down.

James Burgess worked for the local telephone company in the summer, stringing lines. He planned to go into electric work. He made an orientation visit to Purdue University, and, while he was waiting for his appointment, he walked around the dairy barns. He decided, then and there, to become an animal husbandry major.

Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) was looking for a herdsman in 1912, and Burgess and his new bride moved to Manhatten, KS. I arrived a year later, and my two sisters, Marjorie and Helen, were also born in Manhatten. His rise in responsibilities was steady, and for many years he was head of the dairy department. In 1936 he moved to Minnesota where he held a similar position at the University of Minnesota. He was in great demand as an adjudicator of cattle at state fairs and also attended an international dairy congress in England in 1928.

Like many other Fitch descendants, J.B. liked to fish, and the move to Minnesota was especially good for that. We had many good times on fishing trips with my granddad, David, and my mother, who also loved to fish. The day always ended with a card game!



Gladys M. Fitch, daughter of Amos and Nancy Fitch. Titled: "Class of '99" (1899)



L-R: Maurice and Grace Fitch, children of John and Belle Fitch (c. 1903)



Belle and John Fitch, son of Mathias Fitch (date unknown)



L-R: Margie Beers reading a letter while the "ghost" of her sister, Alice, looks over her shoulder. You can see the drapes through Alice' head. We have no information of how or why this photo was taken, although it appears to be a carefully crafted double exposure. (c. 1896)



David Nathaniel Fitch at age 19, the youngest son of Nathaniel and Sarah, at the 1884 Fitch Family Reunion.



Otis Fitch, son of John and Belle Fitch, with his cows. (Date unknown)

David Nathaniel Fitch's Obituary

Auburn IN Newspaper, April 4, 1950

Veterinary Doctor in Auburn for 50 Years Passes Away at Sanitarium at Hicksville, O. -- Funeral Thursday

Dr. D. N. Fitch, 85, a practicing veterinarian in the Auburn community for 50 years and a former civic and political leader in the city, died at 3 a.m. Tuesday in the Meagley sanitarium at Hicksville, O.

A patient at the sanitarium for the past eight years, his death was attributed to a complication of diseases.

Dr. Fitch was a resident of Auburn for many years at 509 South Main Street. He was a member of the Auburn school board, a former city councilman and had served as Auburn city health officer. He was active in lodges in Auburn where he was a member of the Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. The veterinarian was also a member of the Shrine at Fort Wayne.

Dr. Fitch was a native of Perry Township in Allen County. He was born Feb. 13, 1865, the son of the late Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. He was the youngest of 15 children. His early education was in the rural schools near his home. Later, after graduation from the Perry Township Academy, he attended Methodist College in Fort Wayne. In 1890, he graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College. After graduation, he came to Auburn and engaged in practice.

His first wife, the former Emma Belle Sterling, died Dec. 21, 1929. His second wife, Ella, survives with two sons and a daughter.

Fitch Vital Records

In 1971 Carolyn Davis organized a substantial research effort to locate and record all our Fitch families vital records (i.e. names, births and places of birth, marriages, adoptions, divorces, deaths and places of burial.)

Throughout the 1990's I have tried to keep those records current. Every few years I send out forms to our Fitch families, asking for vital data updates. Alas, I do not hear from everyone, so I believe that our records are not complete at the present time.

Please take a moment right now and send an update on your family to the Newsletter editor. Thank you!

I am transferring all of our vital records, from Nathaniel and Sarah to the present, to a PC software program called the "Family Tree Maker," so that copies can be provided to interested kin in either hard copy or computer diskette. I expect to finish the transfer sometime this summer.



The certificate of marriage of Jennie Fitch and Levi Beers, who were married at the Fitch Homestead in Huntertown, Indiana, on December 24, 1873. Both were teachers at Wabash College when they met, but Levi intended to serve man and God through the Methodist ministry. For almost 20 years, the preacher and his wife served various small congregations in western Pennsylvania.



Irving and Margie Beers Ozanne at their wedding in North Harvey, Illinois, on June 23, 1903. Every photo of Irving taken at the wedding shows him somewhat "wide-eyed." Was he feeling like a deer "caught in the headlights?" We shall never know for sure.



The Holy Matrimony page from the family bible of Charles and Luann Fitch, who were married in Keokuck, Iowa, on April 6, 1868. On other pages of the Bible are recorded family births, deaths, and marriages that followed.



The Strattonville Camp Meeting in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. 1 - Jennie Fitch Beers; 2 - Margie Beers; 3 - Rev. Levi Beers; 4 - Roy Beers; and 5 - Alice Beers. (Summer 1892)

"Vacations and Camp Meetings"

(Excerpts from "Preacher's Boy," a family history written by Kenneth Fitch Beers, the oldest son of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers and published in *Jennie's Family*.)

In my years as a preacher's boy in Pennsylvania, there were summer vacation trips, the approach of which we measured in days. When we lived near Chautauqua, a month at that intellectual resort gave my parents that contact with others of their education and profession which served to leaven otherwise dull and somewhat vapid years.

Downstate it was to Cherry Run or to Strattonville camp meeting that we trekked for our annual hob-nobbing with other preachers' families. To our parents these occasions were of great spiritual uplift, sermons by noted religious leaders, lectures, concerts, all brought to ministers and laymen alike glimpses of other worlds. There were special Sunday School days, Missionary days and revival meetings.

Each of these camp grounds, enclosed by a high board fence, was located in pictureque woods and covered many acres. Many substantial homes and many more not so well built or appointed were scattered over each encampment. The central amphitheater in each seated more than 1000 comfortably.

The camp meeting Sabbath Day was one long church service. The grounds were closed on Sunday, the gates were opened only on errands of mercy or health. Throughout the week, summer school sessions were the rule. Art, botany and nature studies vied with music and other cultural classes.

Despite the fact that the grounds were enclosed and the comings and goings of the youthful members of the summer colony supposed to be under control, there were certain boards in the surrounding fence that could be easily removed. The fences were patrolled, and there were times too when the fence boards that opened outward for a Sabbath excursion into the wood were found nailed shut when the wanderers returned.

Outside the grounds near Cherry Run there was a swimming hole of clear, cool water and another pool nearby overshadowed by a plum tree. There were always large, ripe and juicy plums "on ice" at the bottom of this pool.

Pennsylvania was a "wet" state, and liquor was easily secured. Saturday night was the big night of the week at the camp grounds, with hundreds of young men and women coming from all other districts for this one night at "camp meeting." Hip flasks were in evidence where the male members of this visiting delegation congregated around the stables and often among the trees at the outskirts of the camp where they assembled for a drinking bout. Drinking could not be controlled, though drunkeness was, the guilty being hustled out of the main gate, and told

to stay out.

Empty whiskey flasks commanded a high price, and the preacher's boy, earliest on the scene Sunday morning, collected the greatest number of bottles. I was not aware that my parents ever learned of my part in this nefarious collecting.

At Cherry Run camp meeting we celebrated the 4th of July with a firecracker battle. It seems difficult to believe that grown, sane men, would be so carried away as to consent to a celebration of this kind. It might have been the influence of General Stuart's lecture that morning on one of the great battles of the Civil War that stirred enthusiasm to so high a pitch.

The Fourth had been ushered in with an anvil salute. Two heavy blacksmith anvils were set, one on the other, a charge of powder in between. The heated end of a 20 foot iron rod was applied to the powder, and with a great "boom" the upper anvil rose into the air. From the noise point of view, nothing ever seemed to equal this anvil salute. This was given at daybreak, later a parade, 4th of July speeches, and in the late afternoon this free-for-all firecracker battle.

Memories of the Civil War were still fresh in the minds of many of the men on the camp grounds. The sound of the exploding firecrackers, the smoke, the smell of burning gun powder, was to them Gettyburg in miniature, and their shouts encouraged the boys to "heroic' deeds.

The two sides lined up equally, facing each other along a main roadway in the grounds, a hundred or more in each group. Behind the "firing line" was the source of supply, bunches of firecrackers of various sizes, handled by the excited men, who, coaching their lines, took equal delight with their boys in creating a battle without bullets.

Blackened and burned, the participants fought on, until their supply of ammunition was exhausted. There was no decision, none had been expected, but the battle of firecrackers was never again repeated, as there were too many casualties.

Two incidents highlighted this day for me. At the height of the parade, just as the Grand Marshall in full uniform rode past the reviewing stand, black smoke was seen rolling up from a distant farm across the creek, outside the camp ground. The Marshall's home was on fire. Putting spurs to his horse, he forgot the parade, and my last glimpse of the Marshall was of a man on a horse, desperately trying to cover a mile of country road in the shortest possible time.

The other incident was the lowering of the flag. At sunset the great flag, which had been strung across the highway between two tall pines, was taken down not in the conventional way but by two shots from a Winchester rifle. Two ropes, two bullets...that was marksmanship!

(There was a presiding elder of the Methodist Church who) lived in a city in which a big event of the Fall season was its county fair. It was impossible, of course, for a minister of the Gospel, especially one bearing such a high position in Methodism as did this elder, to attend such a fair, or to attend that portion of the exhibit in which it seemed his greatest interest lay, the races. So each afternoon during the week, he hied himself to the second story of his home, and with his binoculars, seated himself comfortably to thus view the sport of kings.

The county fair at Brookville had its attractions. Daily the stagecoach was captured by Indians who were in turn driven off by soldiers. Hot air balloons were sent up from which men in parachutes dropped, and the races were of interest even to a preacher's boy who could see no good reason for not standing by the track and using his eyes.

Then there was the day of the Demorest Medal contest. My mother's abililty as an elocutionist was well known. There was no one in those days who could so beautifully and realistically render "Curfew must not ring tonight", "Kentucky Belle", and "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse".

This ability was much appreciated in church work where she had the training of children for all events. Margie and I had the "declaiming" to do, but it was Margie who always won the medals. At this fair, Mother had two entries, just like some of the race horse owners. I had reached the height of my periodic oration, and, as I was calling on the country to rise and smite liquor, I caught sight of the balloon rising cobra-like to its master's music. One little peep, just one, and the condemnation of liquor traffic halted, slowed, stopped. The balloon was just ready to go up, and I went with it.

I was disgraced, had let my mother down. I was through, I did not want any more fair. Let them catch and hang the villain who robbed the stagecoach, I was not interested, I was through. Telling my parents that I was leaving for home, one of us would have to walk anyway, I went slinking out of the grounds and started to walk home. It was a fifteen mile stretch, and the family expected to catch up with me, but they never did. When they arrived home, they found a very tired boy fast asleep.



May Beers washing her husband Kenneth's hair. This intimate photo was apparently a favorite of theirs, as it was discovered very carefully mounted on a piece of cardboard. (c. 1905)



L-R: Nan (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Sarah Fitch, and her son, Amos Fitch. (Date Unknown)



Ida Fitch Mason, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. (Date Unknown, but taken on the same roll as photo left)



Two strip photos of Alice Beers and Margie Beers Ozanne, daughters of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers. Margie is in all of the photos in the top strip, while Alice is in all the photos in the bottom strip (1906)

Fitch Bits & Pieces

"Helen Chloe Fitch (whose photo appears on page one of the last Newsletter) was always known by me as Grandma Hawver and always very special. I did not realize how much she looked like my mother (her daughter Jane Sterlin Hawver Le Vay)," writes William Le Vay.

Referring to an unpublished photo of John and Belle's house on Coldwater Road, Betty Fitch writes, "One of the stories about that house that I heard was that Belle wanted the wall taken down between the kitchen and dining room, and that John would never do it. So, one day while he was gone, she took an axe to the wall, and by the time he got home, it was gone, and I suppose that he then had to repair the damage. Anyway, she got her wall out!"

Nathaniel Birdsall, great, great grandson of David and Belle Fitch and a student at Yale, wrote a well-researched and humorous article about our relative Major James Fitch, which was published in the "Yale Daily News Magazine". I suspect that Nathaniel Fitch, who valued education so highly, would feel quite pleased about having descendants of his at Yale and, earlier in this century, at Harvard. It is a long way from the rural school houses and the Perry Seminary of 130 years ago.



L-R: RuthAnn and Mary Lou Fitch, daughters of Bessie and Fred W. Fitch and great granddaughters of Perry Fitch, on their farm in Roanoke, Indiana. (c. 1938)



L-R: Nan (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Sarah Fitch, and her son, Amos Fitch. (Date Unknown)



Ida Fitch Mason, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. (Date Unknown, but taken on the same roll as photo left)



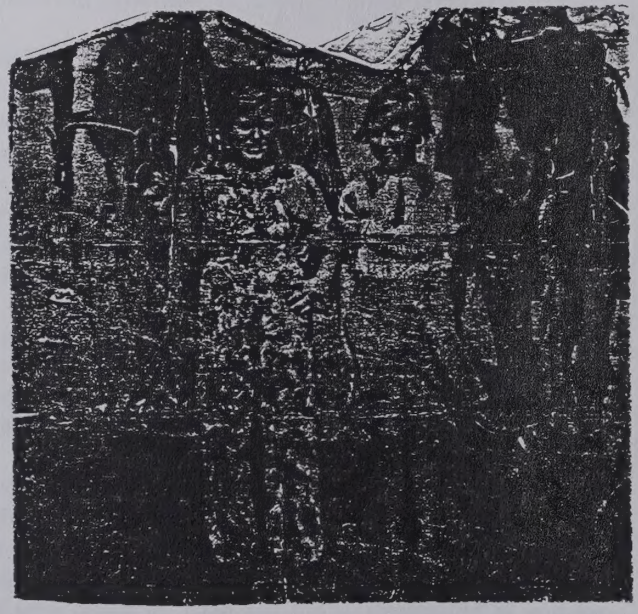
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